ORANGE COUNTY ALT-RIGHT CANNOT DENY WHITE-POWER TIES | A VERY MARY PRANKSTER BLACK FRIDAY BOYCOTT
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MICAH WRIGHT

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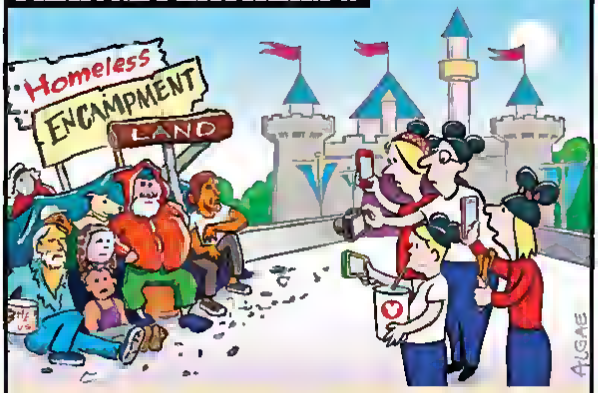
Cross-stitch by Nik Vandaventar of Wasting Thyme (@WastingThyme, JustWastingThyme.etsy.com)
Photo and design by Richie Beckman

ORANGE FEATHERS »



Forcing the homeless to move from the Santa Ana riverbed to Anaheim, provides new photo ops at Disneyland.

OCWEEKLY.

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RED MEAT — alpha poodle in the wolf pack — from the secret files of Max Cannon

This time I'm gonna do it. I'm gonna jump off that here high-divin' board an' just look my fear right in the eye for once in my life.
What a second. Those're body parts floatin' in the pool water down there.
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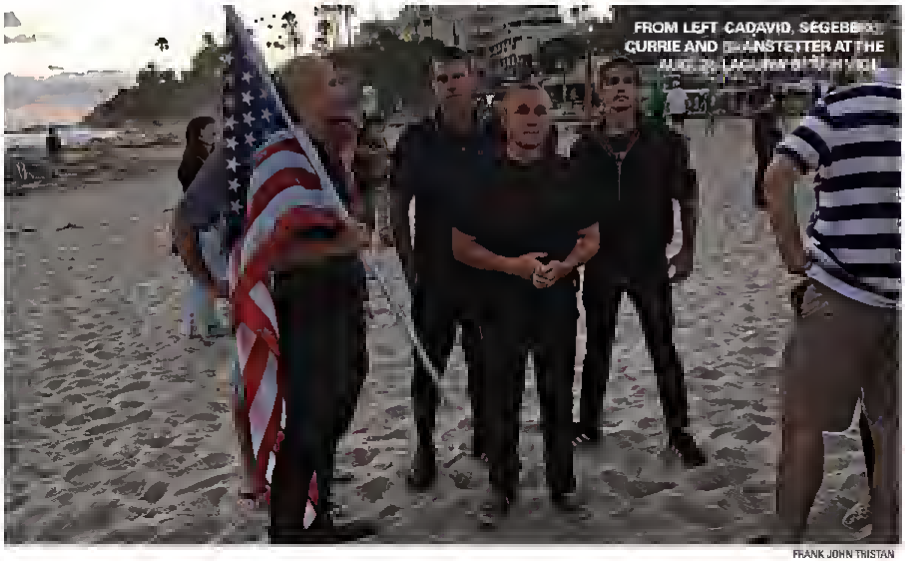
Hi, Hitler!

OC's alt-right can't deny associations with white-hate and neo-Nazi groups

BY FRANK JOHN TRISTAN



FROM LEFT CADAVID, SEGEBERG, CURRIE AND BRANSTETTER AT THE AUG. 20 LAGUNA BEACH VIGIL

FRANK JOHN TRISTAN

Orange County's alt-right sure hates being labeled a white-hate group, but despite constant attempts to stay in good optics, it sure loves allying itself with neo-Nazis, et al.

A recent ProPublica piece exposed a man who attacked this Weekling and the men we saw beating up antifa at March's Huntington Beach #MAGAmarch as members of the violent white-hate group Rise Above Movement (RAM). The piece showed how the Red Elephants figurehead Vincent James Foxx was a supporter of the group by helping to incite and later glorify their violent actions via his outlet. Members were also accepted among OC's alt-right and were spotted at Juan Cadavid's (a.k.a. Johnny Benitez) anti-immigrant Laguna Beach vigils on May 28, June 25 and July 30. The *Weekly* questioned Cadavid twice about his association with RAM via Twitter, and both times, he avoided directly answering the questions, only tweeting on Aug. 8, "I can't speak for RAM, but I wouldn't say living next to RAM is the same as living next to the cartel-connected gangs of Santa Ana."

"Stop being a cuck!" the Red Elephants tweeted on July 24. "Go join @Rise_Above_Mvmt."

Then came Hammerskin neo-Nazi skinhead group members Matthew Gregory Branstetter and Skyler Segeberg being spotted at the HB #MAGAmarch. Hatewatch did a piece on RAM when the group was still under the name D.I.Y. These same skinheads have been seen fighting alongside RAM members at events. Meanwhile, Hammerskin member Spencer Anthony Currie is the vocalist and Segeberg the drummer for the skinhead-affiliated band Hate Your Neighbors, who played alongside such bands as Definite Hate (which used to include Wisconsin Sikh temple mass shooter Wade Michael Page) at the Oct. 1, 2016, Hammerfest in Georgia. The most troubling skinhead, though, is Branstetter, who was charged with assault with force likely to produce great bodily injury and grand theft with sentencing enhancements for committing a hate crime in 2011. An Orange County district attorney's office press release stated the "hate crime attack" involved "beating and kicking a robbery victim while yelling anti-Semitic slurs."

Segeberg attended at least three of Cadavid's vigils and posed for photos with the local alt-right. The *Weekly* also spotted Cadavid personally greeting Segeberg, Branstetter and Currie at an Aug. 20 vigil. When asked via Twitter about the meet and greet, Cadavid claimed to know nothing about Hammerskin. Then he defended them. "I don't get paid by prostitutes and drug dealers to stalk everyone who comes to my events. They're patriots, their past is not my problem." Of a photo of him with the trio, Cadavid tweeted, "The only person in this picture with a 'skinhead' is me because I'm bald."

However, the neo-Nazi who takes the strudel is Brian Michael Enright, the Mountain Center, California, resident who attempted to throw a book-burning event with Cadavid in Huntington Beach in August. We didn't find much on Enright at the time, as his profiles were private, but he popped back up on our radar when Irma Hinojosa (who is Cadavid's girlfriend) shared a Facebook status from Enright under the name Brian Enreich in which he claimed full responsibility for the event in an attempt to distance Cadavid from the bad optics. But by sharing this post, she accidentally revealed his hidden profiles, which included a lovely header image of Enright wearing a Nazi tank T-shirt while holding a rifle and posing in front of a Celtic cross flag, which has been identified as a hate symbol used by white supremacists. The *Weekly* began digging into Enright and found five Facebook accounts belonging to him under the names Brian Enright, Brian Enright III, Brian Enreich and Brian Hit, as well as—get this—a campaign page for his planned congressional run in California's 36th district.

Enright's Facebook posts show he barely decided to run for office on Oct. 16. His neo-Nazi views quickly become apparent through the endless posts with Nazi imagery on his other Facebook pages. One shows a tattoo of an eagle holding a Celtic cross inked on his stomach. Most damning are memes suggesting white people are superior to black people. Do his Brian Enreich page, he posted a video on Oct. 28 of Sir Oswald Mosley, with a heart next to the name of the leader of the British Union of Fascists in the 1930s, and on Nov. 6, he posted an image of Jesus telling Hitler to make Jews pay for his crucifixion. Then, in a June 6 Brian Enright III Facebook post, he blamed Germany's loss in World War II on "Zionist Jews," writing, "I find it strange that Conservatives complain that they do not want sharia law, refugees, Islam, leftists, marxists, etc [sic] in the USA, but they somehow think that America saved Europe from Hitler and that Europe is better off today."

"Hitler was cleaning up Europe for the European people to live in. A leader like Hitler was what they needed then, and someone like him will be needed in the future if Europe is to have hope of driving out the liberal and Islamic scum that has invaded their countries."

A former OC resident, Enright has been making his way to alt-right events here, including at least one of Cadavid's vigils and two Huntington Beach events: a July 22 rally and the Aug. 5 Make Men Great Again gathering at Old World Village. Despite all of Enright's inflammatory posts, he is still Facebook friends with many members of OC's alt-right, even on his secret accounts. Some even liked or commented on the most controversial posts, which shows members in the movement were aware of his views as far back as June. He'd also show up to events with a Defend America banner with the lambda symbol, which is used by white nationalists in the Identitarian movement and which he held in full display at Cadavid's vigils while everyone posed for a group picture. Enright did not respond to the *Weekly*'s requests for comment.

Only time will tell if these associations will continue, but when a Facebook user commented on the Red Elephants' page that "You have white supremacists in your movement," a Red Elephants admin responded on June 26, "The left has communists in theirs. Do they kick them out? Nope."

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Of immigrants, builder buddies, rescue dogs and green-eyed girls

a clockwork ORANGE

» MATT COKER

LAWYERING UP

Last December, Santa Ana became the first city in the county to adopt a sanctuary ordinance protecting the undocumented, and then a program to house federal deportation detainees at Santa Ana Jail was phased out. The City Council went on to discuss how to ensure those who cannot afford to hire lawyers can obtain legal representation during the deportation process. There were no programs in the county to fund such a thing, so the council in February directed city staff to look into worthy initiatives.

On the East Coast, the Vera Institute of Justice had found so much success providing public defenders for the undocumented in New York City—where successful outcomes for such immigrants shot up from 4 percent to 48 percent—that a push was made to take the program nationwide. When city staff investigated legal service providers, the Vera Institute was identified, documentation was supplied to the nonprofit over the summer, and, as part of the selection process, the City Council agreed to set aside $65,000 as seed money for a local program. (Among the 53 comments the *Orange County Register* received about that were: "This is nothing but a defense fund for criminals. No taxpayer money should be used for this," "Advocacy lawyers and liberal journalists are only slightly better than child rapists and murderers," and "Can we just build a practice wall around Santa Ana, please?")

The culmination came Nov. 9 in Columbus, Ohio, with the launch of the Vera Institute of Justice's Safety and Fairness for Everyone (SAFE) Cities Network, which includes Columbus; Santa Ana, Sacramento; Oakland/Alameda County, Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago, Dane County, Wisconsin, Prince George's County, Maryland, and Austin and San Antonio, Texas.

"The city of Santa Ana has emerged as a regional and national leader in local efforts to protect undocumented immigrants," says Councilman Vicente Sarmiento in a city statement. "Our partnership with Vera and the SAFE Cities Network will enable Santa Ana to continue supporting our community by ensuring due process for detained immigrants in court proceedings."

Councilman Sal Tinajero echoed those sentiments, while Mayor Pro Tem Michele Martinez and Councilman David Benavides said it all comes down to public safety. As Benavides put it, "Our community is safest when our neighbors trust their government officials and institutions and know they will be treated justly and with respect and dignity. It is up to us to minimize that disruption by finding efficient, effective and humane solutions to ensure detained immigrants receive the support they need."

Not quoted were Mayor Miguel Pulido, who was absent when the council voted 4-2 to provide the seed money, and dissenting councilmen Juan Villegas and Jose Solorio, who worried about the program's impact on the general fund. For the city's scratch and a $100,000 Vera catalyst grant, Santa Ana gets trained legal service providers to represent immigrants facing deportation proceedings, technical expertise and support, insight on best practices gleaned from other jurisdictions, and analyses of collected data to gauge the network's impact.

COURTESY OF 4LIFE ANIMAL RESCUE

THANKSGIVING KUMBUYA

Home builders and construction trade workers often find themselves at odds over labor issues, but both sides came together for a high-noon demonstration Nov. 15 during the 2017 Building Industry Show at the Orange County Fair & Event Center. Their goal: to urge Congress to protect middle-income home ownership by saving the current Mortgage Interest Deduction.

"The House tax-reform plan abandons middle-income Americans by eviscerating existing home-ownership tax credits that make the American Dream attainable for millions of Americans," explains Peter Vanek, a residential builder and president of the Building Industry Association of Southern California, who joined other construction-company owners, laborers and Building Industry Technical Academy students at the protest.

Currently, homeowners can deduct all their mortgage interest from taxes if their mortgage amount is $1 million or less. The House tax-reform bill would lower the cap to $500,000. In California, the median home price is $533,000, so more than half of the state's homeowners would no longer be able to deduct the full amount of their mortgage interest from their federal taxes. Also keep in mind that the median home price exceeds $700,000 in Orange County, so even more of us here would be screwed.

"We are demonstrating," Vanek says, "to urge Congress to keep the tax incentives that support home ownership in place because the proposals currently in the House tax-reform bill would be devastating—particularly to Southern California."

RUFF TRADE

4Life Animal Rescue's Bark Fest fundraising event Nov. 12 in the back lot of Pet Hospital in Orange raised enough money to cover medical needs for current and future rescue animals, including the $900 in surgery costs for Diego, an American Bully who recently underwent a mass cell tumor removal.

But the highlight of one of the largest events 4Life has ever presented had to be good "bad" boy McCoy winning the costume contest. Decked out in a mullet and jean jacket, the basset hound waltzed down the red carpet as a boom box blasted rock music—thus taking "You ain't nothin' but a hound dog" to a whole new level.

SHIT PEOPLE SEND US

The gremlins who write headlines on our Film section's Special Screenings column routinely pull lines from listed movies. For Nov. 3's "Looking for a Girl With Green Eyes," the honor went to *Big Trouble in Little China*, whose plot involves two female characters with green eyes. And so, into the inbox came...

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POLITICAL FOOTBALL

» STEVE LOWERY

Tennessee Titans vs. Indianapolis Colts

Tennessee update: Articles of impeachment were recently introduced against Donald Trump by Tennessee Congressman Steve Cohen, jolting Americans who were shocked to learn there are Cohens in Tennessee. (Who knew?) The reasons for impeachment are legion and sound—take, for instance, the day before the articles were announced, a day that featured the Attorney General of the United States trying to remember if he'd committed a whole bunch of treason (totally slipped his mind, you know how it is, what with the binge TV) and Republicans offering their version of health-care choice (i.e., if Americans want a tax cut, they'll have to choose to give up health care and a mass shooting/killing in California, an occurrence now so commonplace that Trump tweeted his thoughts and prayers for the victims in California by cutting and pasting his thoughts and prayers for the victims of an earlier mass shooting/killing in Texas).

Indianapolis update: Oh, who the hell cares? You know what's trending in Indianapolis right now? A McNugget fight at a McDonald's drive-thru—Trump just tweeted his thoughts and prayers. But back to Tennessee, where Senator Bob Corker is pushing ahead with hearings set to limit Trump's authority to use nuclear weapons. This is because of escalating tensions with North Korea, i.e., Kim Jong Un calling Trump "old" and Trump calling Kim "fat." Look, I don't want to be *that guy*, but gimme the old days when global annihilation was coming thanks to disagreements on the nature of the relationship between the individual and the state, as opposed to our present "Death By After-School Special."

Consensus: You know how high school life has become? The balance of power in the Senate depends on whether accused child groper/molester/sexual assaulter Roy Moore is elected in Alabama. To that end, his lawyers are demanding his alleged victims turn over their high school yearbooks. They may also demand the Pentagon Papers, i.e., term papers written by the women about the Pentagon. Have a bitchen summer! Go Titans!

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Vox Daytripping

» MATT COKER

Representative Dana Rohrabacher (R-Putin's Lube-ratory) in August retweeted a notorious white nationalist's defense of the so-called Google Manifesto. However, if you go to Rohrabacher's Twitter page right now, the retweet no longer appears. Before the post mysteriously disappeared, I made a screen grab that you can see on ocweekly.com's Navel Gazing version of this story. The retweet also caught the eye of the online Atlas Forum, which parlayed it into a conversation titled "Topic: Congressman Dana Rohrabacher Retweets White Supremacist."

BOB AUL

But Supreme Dark Lord, a.k.a. Vox Day, a.k.a. Theodore Robert Beale, the author of the retweet Rohrabacher retweeted, swears he is not a white supremacist, which makes one wonder why his post was taken down.

Let's begin in July, when James Damore sent an internal memo titled "Google's Ideological Echo Chamber" that cost him his engineering job. In what is now known as the #GoogleManifesto, Damore suggested his employer's policies to boost diversity skirted the law and that men rise higher in the tech world than women do because of biological differences.

Google staff engineer Collin Winter went on to post that he keeps a blacklist of people who mistreat co-workers so he can keep them off his team. Beale, as Supreme Dark Lord, retweeted that with: "A Google manager brags about how he keeps an internal blacklist based on his spying on employee emails. #GoogleManifesto." That's what Rohrabacher retweeted.

So who is this Beale/Vox Day/Supreme Dark Lord dude? He is a writer, editor, video game designer, blogger and alt-right activist who reportedly called Barack Obama a "bad black man" and an African-American sci-fi author a "half savage" (as part of his own defense that he is not a white supremacist). Beale has also been credited with saying, "The answer for those who support Western civilization, regardless of sex, color or religion is to embrace white tribalism, white separatism and especially white Christian masculine rule."

He recently announced the creation of "Voxversity," his online "university" teaching about war, history, religion, philosophy, immigration and male-female relations. Voxversity is funded through Charles C. Johnson's FreeStartr, a "free speech" crowdfunding website. Johnson is the right-wing blogger who set up Rohrabacher's controversial meeting in London with exiled WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange. Soon after, Johnson donated the maximum legal amount of $5,400—in Bitcoin—to Rohrabacher's campaign war chest.

It's all true, just Google it.

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HeyYou!

» ANONYMOUS

Dissed Abled

BOB AUL

You're the person who has a handicap placard hanging from the mirror of your Tesla. WTF are you doing parking in MY non-handicap space, when there are two empty handicapped spaces directly in front of the store? Your parking in the closest non-handicapped space meant that I had to park farther away, making me more aggravated than I already was. Then I see a perfectly able you walking to your car with a bunch of packages, so either you are NOT really handicapped or you are too stoopid to use the proper handicap space, which I am not able to use. If I were to park in YOUR space, I would not only get rude remarks from others, but I would also get a hefty citation—yet you, who claim to be handicapped, feel it is okay to park in the space that was designated for ME without a care in the world. You already get to park closest to where you are going AND park for free at meters, so why do you have to take MY space? Let's not get started on bathrooms. . . .

HEY, YOU! Send anonymous thanks, confessions or accusations—changing or deleting the names of the guilty and innocent—to "Hey, You!" *c/o OC Weekly*, 18475 Bandilier Circle, Fountain Valley, CA 92708, or email us at letters@ocweekly.com.

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This Handmade Life:

Ten Years On, The Patchwork Show

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BY AIMEE MURILLO

Nicole Stevenson got into her beat-up Chevy station wagon, looked into her rearview mirror and cried.

She had just spent an entire afternoon at a craft fair in a parking lot in Dana Point. The organizers had wooed her and others with promises of big weekend crowds buying their DIY creations under a beautiful coastal sky. Stevenson had packed her car with her usual pop-up equipment: a 10-foot-by-10-foot canopy, an envelope filled with cash, a machine for credit-card transactions and racks filled with clothes from her Random Nicole line. She then drove down from Irvine and was almost immediately disappointed. This show was nothing like the ones she had done in bigger cities such as Los Angeles or San Francisco. It was poorly attended and badly organized; the few shoppers there were more interested in how they could make these things themselves. "The big crowds and eager shoppers who appreciated handmade goods that I'd gotten used to weren't there," Stevenson says.

But as she was stuck in traffic on the northbound 405 that day in 2007, Stevenson's misery gave her an idea. She called up her aunt, Delilah Snell, and they met up that evening in Snell's back yard. By the time they finished their drinks, they had the first drafts for Patchwork Show, an arts-and-crafts festival they went on to host six months later in a small Santa Ana parking lot behind Snell's store, the Road Less Traveled.

Twenty-five vendors showed up to that inaugural Patchwork.

This Sunday, more than 200 vendors hawking everything from ceramic succulent holders, baked-clay jewelry, woodblock paintings and artisanal coffee to cross-

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This Handmade Life

» FROM PAGE 11

stitched items, screenprinted T-shirts, hand-sewn garments and more will take over downtown Santa Ana for the show's 10-year anniversary. What started as a response to lameness has turned into festivals in Santa Ana, Long Beach and Oakland (with more cities on the way), a four-day business conference in Ventura called Craftcation, and a successful podcast called *Dear Handmade Life* for which the two interview fellow makers.

Crafters and artists—local and otherwise—credit Patchwork as a game changer for the DIY scene in Southern California. Snell and Stevenson's advice, mentoring and events have inspired people to create their own successful businesses. And their emphasis on holding events in the streets to make them as accessible to the public as possible have cities begging them to bring Patchwork to their downtowns to attract the creative class, as well as inspire new generations of makers.

"Nicole and Delilah are some of the best organizers of these kinds of shows," says Lynn Knopfler of Brown Bag Books, a longtime vendor at Patchwork. "We've done quite a few of these types of shows, some of which we don't do anymore because they're not as well-organized."

"I think both of them are just such dynamic entrepreneurs," says Eric Wallner, a former creative economy specialist with the city of Ventura who brought them to the seaside town in 2012. "They're smart and really committed; they understand what it takes to make major events. And I think they're just super-creative individuals."

"They complement each other incredibly," says LP Hastings, a former Weekling, Patchwork volunteer, onetime vendor and producer of their podcast. "Nicole manages to create a good flow while placing 100-plus vendors into a space, and Delilah is … I don't know—an alien? A superhuman? She can run an event unlike anyone I've ever seen."

"I don't think a lot of people know that event production isn't easy, to do it to the point that we do it, for the budget that we do it," Snell says.

She and a group of volunteers are painting signs in her Santa Ana back yard to the sounds of Glue Trip's "La Edad Del Futuro." Snell lifts heavy, wooden slates from a storage shed, then explains how each sandwich board needs to be painted and decorated for the Nov. 12 Patchwork in Long Beach. As the crew starts on the next task, Snell takes a moment to pet her aging rescue dog, Marge. "The fact that we work with really great people to make this event happen every time really keeps Patchwork going and makes me happy," she says.

Meanwhile, up in Northern California, Stevenson answers emails, speaks with her social-media strategist, looks over spreadsheets, updates the Dear Handmade Life website, reaches out to possible speakers for Craftcation, copy edits newsletters and talks to sponsors over the phone. "Even though [this] stuff is boring, I still like it, I love just getting things done, and I have a master spreadsheet of everything I have to do for Patchwork and everything I have to do for Craftcation—and there are hundreds of things that need to be done," Stevenson says. "I just love checking things off that list."

While both were the black sheep of their respective families, Stevenson was more so because she was artsy and weird, Snell was more liberal and more politically aware than her conservative family. The two were predestined to work together. As children (though aunt and niece, they're just five months apart in age), their dream was to open a coffee shop named Aunty Niecie Waterfall, the name an homage to the Jimi Hendrix song. "One of us would be working on the floor, and the other one would be resting upstairs," Snell says with a laugh. "And here we are!"

But they became collaborators via two radically different paths.

Snell lived all over Orange County, eventually graduating from University High (she remembers fellow Trojan Zack de la Rocha playing in the school's Battle of the Bands one year). After attending Irvine Valley College (and winning a lawsuit against South Orange County Community College District Chancellor Raghu Mathur over his barring students' First Amendment right to protest), Snell dove headfirst into gardening, cooking and community activism. She taught herself how to cook, can and preserve food, and eventually, she started her own preserves business, Backyard In a Jar. As she became more active, "I realized the most important thing you can do is something with your dollar," she says. "Unfortunately, we live in a capitalistic society. We buy food every day, so that's where we make change."

She worked as a waitress at the Gypsy Den at the Lab in Costa Mesa before helping to open its then-new location in downtown Santa Ana in 1999, a good decade before the arrival of all the restaurants the area hosts today. Within a year, she helped to organize the city's first farmers' market. She set up a home office and soon began exposing other people to the eco-friendly products she found that reflected the natural-living lifestyle she was promoting with her community activism.

"'Eco-friendly' and 'green' weren't common terms at that point, and people weren't really into it, but I was," Snell says. "There's a fuck-ton of stuff out there that people don't realize can change their lives."

Snell opened Road Less Traveled near the Bowers Museum in 2006, her small storefront space was an outpost for eco-friendly, creative products that she presented as mainstream. Within a year and a half, Snell took over the space next door, doubling her store size and allowing her to offer workshops, book signings and art shows.

Soon after, Stevenson occupied part of the store. She had always thought she was going to be a creative writer, despite the fact she had indulged in crafty projects her entire life and sold out her first art show during college. But the Orange native reached an epiphany during grad school when her computer crashed in the middle of writing her thesis. In a panic, she threw her pants out the window, then thought she saw a homeless man running away with them. "I had that moment where I was just like, 'Why am I going so crazy working hard?'" she recalls. "And I thought about that art show where I sold all my art and the feeling I got when I was making art."

Stevenson decided to move with a good friend to Los Angeles, where she slept on a beanbag in a one-bedroom apartment. To make ends meet, she sold paintings on the Venice Beach boardwalk, back in the days when it was a scruffy part of Los Angeles instead of today's hipster haven. Tourists who walked by would "say things like, 'Oh, this painting is really cute but doesn't match the colors of my house,'" she says. "So I thought about making more functional art."

She began making paintings on purses, which evolved into a business. Stevenson soon moved into her own place and started her Random Nicole clothing line in 2001. Her whimsical shirts, skirts and dresses were carried in more than 250 stories across the globe and were featured in conventions and trade shows. It became so popular that a major multinational corporation offered to buy her out.

"That's what I had wanted—to be living off my art—and finally it was actually happening," she says. "But there was something that felt kind of meaningless about it."

She rejected the offer and dove back into teaching crafting classes. But soon after, Stevenson's longtime boyfriend broke up with her. The blow was so hard, Snell invited her to move in with her in Irvine.

"Delilah was like, 'Come live with me in Orange County,'" Stevenson says. "'I know you think it sucks, but we'll have so much fun!'"

After that dismal craft fair in Dana Point, Stevenson and Snell planned their own fest. Stevenson invited fellow makers she knew to display their wares on tables in the parking lot of

SNELL (LEFT) AND STEVENSON BACK IN THE DAY

Road Less Traveled, while Snell got her restaurateur friends from Gypsy Den and Memphis to help promote the event. It was planned for a Sunday in November, a day when the car-stripping business next door would be closed. They designed a small postcard with hands and an orange, calling Patchwork "a unique shopping event."

"The night before was one of the most stressful nights ever because we had no idea if anyone was going to show up, and I had really sold this to the people who were driving from LA to do this show in Orange County," Stevenson says

The day of, Snell and Stevenson had to decide on the spot how to configure the tables to fit in the parking lot They covered a stripped-out car on cinder blocks with a sheet "because we couldn't do anything else—it wasn't my lot," Snell says with a laugh.

More than 500 people showed up, including a reporter from NPR's *Marketplace* who interviewed Snell and Stevenson and asked when the next event would be. "We kind of looked at each other and were like, 'It's gonna be next spring! We do it every spring and holiday!'" Stevenson says "That's how we've done everything; we just kind of figure it out and say yes, and then we work our butts off to actually make it happen."

The next Patchwork did happen the following spring, on Memorial Day weekend, with the next one the following Thanksgiving weekend. As word spread, so did attention from Santa Ana officials, who contacted Snell to start pulling permits for the event. When that happened, she says, "We realized this is a real thing."

It became such a Santa Ana mainstay that Snell won a Community Building Award in 2011, with the city calling her "an active force ... to improve Santa Ana."

"Patchwork is more than a festival, it's about place-making, embracing local creative arts and local commerce," says City Councilwoman Michele Martinez.

Snell moved the Road Less Traveled to downtown Santa Ana in 2012, and Patchwork set up on the promenade in front of Gypsy Den. Offers and attempts to expand to other markets followed, with successful versions in Long Beach in 2009 and in Jack London Square in Oakland in 2012. Stevenson moved to Northern California in 2010, despite the distance, the women continue to work together as easily as if they were in the same room.

"Nicole is an excellent planner; she handles all the paperwork, permits," Snell says "All hands on, logistical stuff is me."

"We kind of know what our jobs are," Stevenson says. "After this many years, we trust that the other person will do what they need to do, and if they can't, they'll ask the other person for help."

Throughout Patchwork's evolution, its commitment to curating a list of out-of-the-box, distinctive vendors has stayed strong Brown Bag Books, which sells used books and journals made from repurposed tomes, wasn't always accepted into indie markets when it started in 2006, "whereas Delilah and Nicole were like, 'Yeah, that sounds cool, we'll do it,'" Knopfler says, "and we have been a hit since."

Alyssandra Nighswonger, a Long Beach-based musician, came on board in the summer of 2016 to assist Snell in planning the Long Beach Patchwork. "I had been to small craft shows but nothing like [Patchwork]," she says "And I really liked that they invited Open Books and Fingerprints to do pop-ups there because I'm a musician and already liked the things they did."

In 2011, Snell and Stevenson hit the road for Ventura to meet Wallner He had gone to Patchwork Long Beach some months before, then emailed, called and visited Santa Ana to discuss bringing Patchwork to Ventura. Although they didn't have their sights set on a new location, the women figured they might as

» CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

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This Handmade Life

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well entertain the idea since Wallner was so persistent.

The two went on a Monday, the day after Carmageddon. What should've been a two-and-a-half-hour drive turned into a five-hour slog. But it was a blessing in disguise, as they started to toss around ideas about a potential new event. Snell jotted down in her notepad a list of things they wished they knew when they started their business. "Because I had opened Road Less Traveled two years before the recession hit, I learned everything the hard way," Snell says.

By the time they reached Ventura, they had a one-page proposal for Craftcation ready.

Inspired by the city's cool, artsy vibe and what Snell described as "beach without the bullshit," they told Wallner that Craftcation would be a destination conference that combines crafting with the relaxing energy of a vacation. Craftcation offered classes on skills they had never tried before such as leather-making, knitting, hand lettering, watercolor painting, Adobe Photoshop, screenprinting, selling stuff online and the like. Speakers and workshops would provide wisdom on basic business 101 for those wondering how to file an LLC or in need of tips about taxes, website creation, marketing and more. At night, parties and opportunities to mingle and decompress with other crafters would take place.

"I thought it was fantastic," says Wallner. "One of the things we were trying to accomplish in Ventura was supporting the creative economy, and that would include artists of all varieties, as well as crafters and independent makers and artisans of all stripes [Snell and Stevenson] really understood why that is important."

Wallner presented their proposal to his bosses, it was approved within a couple of months.

Snell and Stevenson started meeting with hotels and Ventura officials to move plans forward, but as with Patchwork, it was a learning experience. "We didn't really know what we were doing," Snell says. "We had never really negotiated with a hotel before. Nicole hadn't even been to a conference."

"Again, we were risking everything and not really knowing what we were doing," Stevenson adds. "But we planned the whole thing as it was happening, and it was awesome."

Echoing their sentiments about the first Patchwork, both Snell and Stevenson were worried no one would sign up. More than 200 attendees came to the first Craftcation in 2012, their sixth event this past April sold out in minutes. Past speakers include business experts Evan Kleiman and Mallory Whitfield, DIY icon Amy Tangerine, and Weebly's Event and Community Lead Dana Walsh.

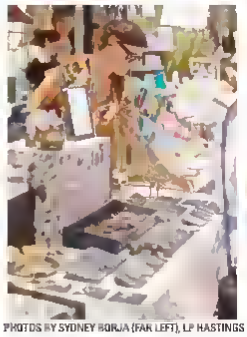
"It's really refreshing to meet others who have the same passion as you do about creating and crafting," says Cindy Su, a Craftcation attendee. "I was amazed to see people of all ages and backgrounds come together to hang out and enjoy four full days of hands-on activities."

"I think that first Craftcation, I got that thing I was missing," says Stevenson. "That thing was helping other people in a way that felt natural to my own values. I love making things, and I relate to other people through making things."

With Patchwork and Craftcation attracting the same community of DIY makers, Stevenson and Snell decided to bridge the two ventures together under a single brand to avoid confusion and continue to help indie creators learn the dynamics of starting and maintaining a business. Dear Handmade Life was born in 2013; through it, the two have parlayed their collective commerce experiences into digestible workshops, podcasts, blog posts and newsletters to share business-savvy tips, as well as fun project ideas, recipes and activities to try at home. Stevenson writes content for the site, while she and Snell record their conversations on creative-living topics.

"We don't get to hang out at Craftcation or Patchwork," Snell says. "The podcast is where we have our conversa-

STEVENSON (LEFT) AND SNELL IN VENTURA



PHOTOS BY SYDNEY BORJA (FAR LEFT), LP HASTINGS (SECOND FROM LEFT AND FAR RIGHT) NICOLE STEVENSON (THIRD FROM LEFT)

tions. Imagine we're at a bar and we just happen to talk about this one topic; it's authentic and fun, it's creative, and people really like it." They've recorded 60 podcast episodes, each of which averages about 2,000 downloads; they are uploaded every other week.

In the midst of podcasting, running her Santa Ana market and deh Alta Baja Market, outlining the next Craftcation, and teaching classes at Orange County School of the Arts, Snell decided to move the Santa Ana Patchwork from the promenade to the east end corner of downtown Santa Ana for its 10th anniversary. "We needed the change," Snell says. "We've been at [our previous] location for four years and needed to freshen it up a bit."

There'll be even more vendors and new participating venues such as M. Lovewell, the Frida Cinema and Fourth Street Market.

"I've always admired the truly bohemian spirit one feels while attending Patchwork," says the Frida's executive director, Logan Crow. "I'm so excited that Delilah has invited the Frida Cinema, and we'll be putting our thinking caps on to ensure that we're not just a destination for drinks, but that we do our part to complement her festival by offering eclectic, quality products crafted with passion by artisans."

It's 10:45 a.m., and Patchwork Long Beach hasn't officially started yet. But droves of people are already arriving, just as vendors and volunteers are putting together final touches. Soon, the event is swamped with foot traffic, as vendors tend to the more than 7,000 people who eventually visit.

Snell is visible among the crowds in her neon-pink vest and wide-brimmed hat. Whatever moments she has free from handling an incident, she devotes to checking out other vendors or posting on Instagram, she has already charged her iPhone twice.

Stevenson keeps up with Patchwork from afar, answering emails from vendors, responding to social-media comments, engaging with people using the #Patchwork hashtag on Instagram, and doing all the behind-the-scenes work from her home in Northern California.

Despite the internet, Stevenson thinks the craft scene remains strong "because people like to make that personal connection, which is what the craft scene is all about," she says. "It's great to buy online, too, but I think there's something to be said about meeting a maker in person and being able to touch something or smell something and talk to them and ask them questions."

"This one woman came up to me and told me she's going to Craftcation for the first time and she's so excited and she wants to start to do something," Snell says. "I love seeing people have a good time, I think Nicole and I are just trying to create something that we've always wanted to have ourselves, but I'm realizing other people really like it, too. It feels really validating."

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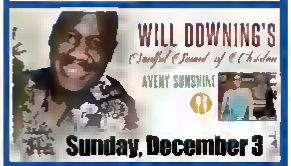

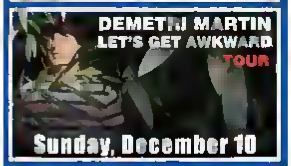

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fri/11/24

[NIGHTLIFE]

Dark Night

Release the Bats

What's a more appropriate Black Friday celebration than a post-Thanksgiving Goth dance party? The monthly Release the Bats dance night returns with a Black BLACK Friday event, inching closer to its 20th-anniversary celebration and last call. Wear your gloomiest vinyl, bondage, lesther or black-lace gear and come hear some moody and caustic death rock, Gothic and alternative sounds, courtesy of guest DJ Ralphie Nigma. While Goth club nights are few and far between here in Orange County, don't miss your chance to enjoy the last few instances of debaucherous pleasure at this venerable playground of the dark

Release the Bats at Que Sera, 1923 E Seventh St., Long Beach, (562) 599-6170, www.releasethebats.net. 9 p.m. Free before 10:30 p.m., $5 after. 21+. —AIMEE MURILLO

[FAMILY EVENTS]

Getting Baked

The Science of Gingerbread

Discovery Cube's annual Science of Gingerbread exhibit returns—*awww, yeah!* Celebrate the seasonal dessert (er, for science), and learn about how specific factors such as heat, engineering, math and physics play into forming the delicious confectionary treat we've come to know and love. There will be plenty of cool activities to take part in, but folks should definitely compete to win the Science of Gingerbread competition, in which contestants submit their best creations for awesome prizes. Either way, you'll be applying all that sweet, sweet knowledge to all your future gingerbread homies next time in the kitchen!

The Science of Gingerbread at Discovery Cube, 2500 N. Main St., Santa Ana, (714) 542-2823, www.discoverycube.org. 10 a.m. Through Dec. 31. $12.95-$17.95, children 2 and younger, free. —AIMEE MURILLO

sat/11/25

[CONCERT]

THANKFUL FOR SKA!

Ska Luau 7: The Skanksgiving

It's alive and still skanking! The annual throwback-genre concert that is Ska Luau returns to the House of Blues for its lucky seventh year. Dubbed Skanksgiving, as the fest falls on the holiday weekend (a Thanksgiving luau? Sure, it's OC), the lineup features headliners Starpool with support from their friends Suburban Legends, Half Past Two, Skapeche Mode and For Pete's Sake. Don't miss this chance to break it down—then pick it up, pick it up, pick it up!

Ska Luau 7: The Skanksgiving at House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk, 400 W. Disney Way, Ste. 337, Anaheim, (714) 778-2583, www.houseofblues.com. 6 p.m. $15. —ERIN DEWITT

[SHOPPING]

Go Green!

Green Saturday Vegan & Cruelty-Free Holiday Market

There's a misconception that vegan food means eating bland cuisine that Mike Pence would be down with, but nothing could be further from the truth! Experience the amazing plethora of modern vegan eats at Green Saturday: A Vegan & Cruelty-Free Holiday Marketplace in Long Beach. Enjoy live music from DJs Lissy Suede & Nelson Rome of the Long Beach Vegan Social as you explore the offerings from a wide variety of esteemed vendors, including cruelty-free apparel. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Whiskers & Tails foundation, a nonprofit that helps rescue animals and house pets. Get your lentils together and join the fun!

Green Saturday Vegan & Cruelty-Free Holiday Market at Long Beach Petroleum Club, 3636 Linden Ave., Long Beach, www.whiskerstails.org. 11 a.m. $5. —HEATHER MCCOY

sun/11/26

[THEATER]

Bah, Humbug!

A Christmas Carol

Inspired by his anger and empathy after witnessing children working in tin mines and living in squalor, Charles Dickens wrote what would become the major catalyst for resurrecting Christmas traditions in the Victorian era. His novella *A Christmas Carol*, published in 1843, has never been out of print and has been the subject of thousands of adaptations over the centuries. Adapted by Jerry Patch and directed by John-David Keller, this production stars one of the OC's favorite Scrooges, Hal Landon Jr. So, grab the loved ones and head over to South Coast Rep for a time-honored classic that reminds us all about the upshot of generosity and kindness of spirit. (Hint: The downshot really, really sucks.)

A Christmas Carol at South Coast Repertory, 655 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa, (714) 708-5555, www.scr.org. Noon & 4 p.m. Through Dec. 24. $20-$66. 7+. —SHAVONNE SMITH

[CONCERT]

Ozo Forever

Ozomatli

Longtime Chicano group Ozomatli have been playing Orange County for years, yet somehow, they have never really hit the mainstream. Despite that, their social justice-infused Latin-rock music has been inspiring *la raza* before Chicano supergroups such as La Santa Cecilia or Chicano Batman ever graced the NPR set. Ozo fans can expect a triumphant entrance via conga line and an even more epic live performance to hold them over until the next rendezvous in OC—and hopefully, they'll bang out their killer ska version of Juan Gabriel's "El Noa Noa"!

Ozomatli at the Coach House, 33157 Camino Capistrano, San Juan Capistrano, (949) 496-8930, thecoachhouse.com. 7 p.m. $30. —AIMEE MURILLO

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mon/11/27

[FILM]

On the Road

Withnail and I

The dark comedy following two unemployed actors who've gone on holiday by mistake, *Withnail and I* celebrates 30 years. The two friends, played by Richard E. Grant and Paul McGann, go on a booze-fueled road trip to the countryside that's filled with adventure, frustrations and quotable comical quips. Bruce Robinson's semi-autobiographical cult favorite will be presented in its complete and uncut version at the Frida Cinema, so be ready to hurt from what is widely considered to be the greatest British comedy of all time.

Withnail and I at the Frida Cinema, 305 E. Fourth St., Santa Ana, (714) 285-9422, thefridacinema.org. 8 p.m. $7-$10. —CYNTHIA REBOLLEDO

tue/11/28

[CONCERT]

Noise Revolt

Deep Fields, LIMMS and Psychic Wave

Tonight is the final installment of a residency neatly put together by OC's new Death Club collective. There's Deep Fields, who do blissed-out, blown-out shoegaze with welcome grit and power—soft on the surface, but heavy at the center. They match well with LA's LIMMS, a band vaporized to the point they're almost playing some lost deep dub song, except underneath the echo and the atmosphere is something still connected to the most skeletal idea of indie rock. And Psychic Wave are riding the Pixies' wave of mutilation into Sonic Youth's psychic haze, at least on the noisy songs. When they're quiet, it's another story—but a story worth hearing all the way through.

Deep Fields, LIMMS and Psychic Wave at the Continental Room, 115 W. Santa Fe Ave., Fullerton, (714) 526-4529; continentalroomoc.com. 9 p.m. Free. 21+. —CHRIS ZIEGLER

wed/11/29

[FOOD & DRINK]

Get Inspired

Kat Monroe's Drink & Draw

Even if you're the kind of artist who primarily works alone, you can't argue there's a special spark of inspiration that strikes when you paint or draw alongside others. If you're the kind of artist who gets your spark from a little bit of the drink, that's cool, too! The great news is that Kat Monroe's fabulous Drink & Draw returns once more, with more booze, bands and buddy-hangout opportunities. Bring whatever art supplies you own—ink and quill, crayon, ballpoint pen, whatever—and commit utensil to paper to create your own barroom masterpiece. Musical entertainment on the bill includes PMA, Indignant Swine, Operation Mockingbird and more.

MORE ONLINE
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Kat Monroe's Drink & Draw at the Doll Hut, 107 S. Adams St., Anaheim, (562) 277-0075, www.facebook.com/mskatmonroe7. 8 p.m. Free. 21+. —AIMEE MURILLO

[ART]

ART QUEEN

'Empress Dowager Cixi: Selections From the Summer Palace'

Bowers Museum presents the world premiere of an exhibit hoping to flesh out the full, vibrant life of one of China's misunderstood historical figures. Empress Dowager Cixi, who lived from 1835 through 1908, was a solid politician, but she was also highly praised for her cultural contributions as a well-versed, passionate patron of the arts. This Bowers exhibit contains a massive survey of 100 objects and ephemera that hold a key to the Empress' fine-art taste and eye for creative talent, transported directly from the Summer Palace in Beijing, where she resided. Witness how one of the most powerful women of the early 19th century helped usher in a new era of cultural revolution.

"Empress Dowager Cixi: Selections From the Summer Palace" at the Bowers Museum, 2002 N. Main St., Santa Ana, (714) 567-3600, www.bowers.org. 10 a.m. Through March 11, 2018. $10–$23. —AIMEE MURILLO

thu/11/30

[CONCERT]

WE'LL SAY IT

Say Anything

Ever since the band surprise-released *I Don't Think It Is* nearly two years ago, Say Anything have been road warriors of a sort. The veteran emo band seem more at home on tour, with their schedule as full now as at any point in their career. With singer Max Bemis in a good place mentally—which had derailed the band's momentum in the past—Say Anything are currently on the road in support of the 10th anniversary of *In Defense of the Genre*. Unlike other Say Anything tours, this one features that album being played in full. *... Is a Real Boy* and their self-titled album get their turns over two nights at the Observatory. With these shows taking place early in the tour, fans will get the opportunity to see Say Anything play these raw albums in their purest form.

Say Anything with Dan Andriano + Mike Park and Backwards Dancer at the Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana, (714) 957-0600, www.observatoryoc.com. 7 p.m., also Dec. 1. $25. —DANIEL KOHN

[FAMILY EVENTS]

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If berry-themed fun is your jam, and Christmas-y family fun is your idea of a good time, then you best be making your way over to Manassero Farms for some of the biggest, berriest programming to fulfill all your holiday needs. This historic farm, which has been the site of berry production for Southern California for the past 80 years, will be the place to bring family and loved ones for their special Christmas At the Farm celebration. Crafting activities, Santa photo ops and games will let the kiddies' imaginations run wild, while adults can attend a Farmer's Wife workshop for seasonal berry recipes. Plus, holiday drinks and appetizers made from the farm's own harvest will feed you and your hungry brood. Make your way to this berry fun escape!

Christmas At the Farm at Manassero Farms, 15670 Jeffrey Rd., Irvine, (949) 554-5103, www.manasserofarms.com. 9 a.m., also Dec. 1-2. Free. —AIMEE MURILLO

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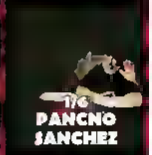

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Lost In Translation

Bosava in Garden Grove is pretty and wonderful despite a poorly translated French-Vietnamese menu and servers who can't help you decipher it

BY EDWIN GOEI

For years, there was a Shakey's no Westminster Avenue and Taft Street, where it dead-ends into a river bed in Garden Grove. It was one of the older Shakey's in Orange County, as was obvious from the Kennedy-era font spelling out "Shakey's Pizza Parlor & Ye Public House" on the hexagon-shaped signpost. About three years ago, the Shakey's closed and a Japanese steakhouse moved in. The steakhouse didn't last long. After it shuttered earlier this year, an Asian fusion restaurant called Bosava took over the space. Even if you didn't know about the Shakey's, you could still tell the place used to be something old-school. The new logo didn't quite fill out the white space left on that signpost, and the exterior of the building—which looks even more ramshackle these days than ever—starkly contrasted with what's now inside.

Walking in, it felt as though I discovered the architectural embodiment of a geode—an outer layer of ugly hiding an interior that glimmers. On one wall, a polished metal relief was backlit with LEDs. Above me, clouds were painted against a blue sky on a Caesar's Palace-style mural. The space resembled a ballroom for a lavish wedding banquet that was just about to start, with a raised stage for an MC and a state-of-the-art sound system that could sustain a raucous night of dancing. Bosava has fashioned itself as a high-end venue aimed at the Vietnamese consumer who wants to be surrounded by the kind of glamour they've seen in *Paris By Night*.

But if you're not a Vietnamese speaker, you'll find the eight-page menu as impenetrable as I did. It has English translations, but they're lazy ones that don't begin to describe what you're actually ordering. An appetizer called tre Hue chua cay is translated as "spicy sour tre Hue."

My waiter was no help in explaining this dish or the rest of the menu. When I asked him what the best and most popular item was, he resorted to the always-frustrating answer of "Everything is good." After he admitted he didn't know how many scallops came in the baked scallops appetizer, I couldn't decide whether he was just as overwhelmed by the menu or simply hadn't tried any of it.

Sensing my growing frustration, he pointed to the Hai Phong seafood egg rolls, which he said a lot of customers liked. A few minutes later, he brought out what resembled two tiny apple turnovers cut in half.

"Are these the egg rolls?" I asked.

"Something like that," he answered mysteriously.

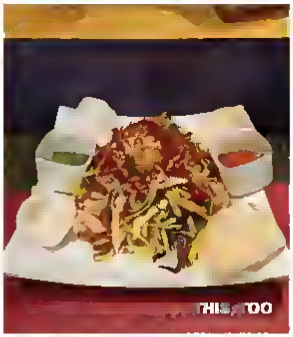
But it was indeed "something like that." These were two pillow-shaped cha gios served on an oversized plate with the usual accouterment of lettuce, herbs, pickled carrots and daikon, with a dipping bowl of spicy fish sauce on the side. A Google search revealed that these blistered rice paper Hot Pockets are filled with minced crab and vermicelli noodles. It was a style of egg roll popular in Hai Phong, a port city in northeastern Vietnam known for its seafood. I loved it, and my server, in commenting it was well-liked, was at least not misrepresenting the dish.

He could've, however, done better describing the main course I ordered. When I asked, he'd told me that the bo luc lac was just like another steak dish that was translated into English as "slide beef tenderloin on top of sunrise potatoes." The only difference, he said, was that the latter had rice in it.

I found no rice in the "slide beef." And as it turns out, whoever typed *slide* on the menu actually meant *sliced* because that's what it was: thinly sliced tenderloin wok-tossed with onions and scallions, drizzled in Worcestershire sauce, and piled over fast-food fries.

Despite looking like something that came from a food truck, it was surprisingly good. The beef, which resembled the meat in a Philly cheesesteak, was so tender it didn't require chewing. And because the onions were perfectly sautéed and the sauce soaked its way into the fries, the dish became a delicious homage to Peruvian lomo saltado, even if it was inadvertent.

GO GO LOCK FIGURING OUT THAT THIS IS ON THE MENU...



THIS, TOO

PHOTOS BY EDWIN GOEI

That night, I saw at least three other Vietnamese families tucking into that dish. I noticed they also ordered the same seafood salad I was having, a mountain of young mango, green papaya, thick rings of cuttlefish and shrimp the size of fists. It was then that I realized whether you can speak Vietnamese or not, we were all there to enjoy what this place had in spades—beef and potatoes, seafood in salad, and a room that makes us feel as if we're celebrating something momentous.

BOSAVA
10742 Westminster Ave., Garden Grove, (657) 999-5672, bosavarestaurant.com. Open daily, 10 a.m.–10 p.m. Appetizers, $6–$13, entrees, $15–$30. No alcohol.

WHAT THE ALE
» ROBERT FLORES

Blessed Be the Beer Nerds

With the craft beer scene in Orange County growing in leaps and bounds it's unfortunate when the inevitable happens and a brewery closes its doors. We saw that last year with Valiant Brewing of Orange shutting down, the spot reopening as Green Cheek Beer Co., with Evan Price brewing his magic. And now, just down Batavia, Old Orange Brewing has been replaced by Black Cock Brewing Co.

It has only been a few months since Black Cock Brewing opened, and changes are still in progress. The only light comes from six lamps above the bar, giving the place a dark but warm vibe. Though you're more than welcome to bring in your own food, there are chips and snacks for sale.

If you are interested in brewing or are already a homebrewer, you'll want to talk to the man behind the bar, Joe Hello. The brewer and head of operations has a ton of experience and can answer any question you might have.

In my visits, I've tried just about every beer on the menu. The 7.6 percent ABV Naked Neck IPA is hop-forward with plenty of fruity notes. At 5 percent ABV, Mexican Lucky is a light lager. Alone, it's refreshing with plenty of malty flavor, but have Joe add some Tajin or Michelada mix, and BOOM! Viva Mexico!

The flagship beer is the El Chingon (8.2 percent ABV), which is already being sold in retail markets. It's also a Mexican lager, but it pours slightly darker and actually packs a punch, with toasty Vienna malts on the nose.

As a cancer survivor who used medical marijuana during my treatment, I was pleased to see Black Cock Brewing offers to infuse any beer on the menu with CBD. Blessed be the beer nerds!

LETTERS@OCWEEKLY.COM

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ROBERT FLORES

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CYNTHIA REBOLLEDO

Two In One

WOK IN
2394 Newport Blvd , Costa Mesa, (949) 287-6785, wok-in.cafe-inspector.com.

If any fast-food Chinese place could be worthy of a cult following, it's probably Wok-In. At this corner spot, located just off the 55 freeway and Santa Isabel Avenue, you'll see two illuminated logos offering Vietnamese pho and Chinese fast food. When asked what led to pairing the two cuisines, the owner's son Bruce Le explained, "Our cook is Chinese, and my mom is Vietnamese and knows how to make pho. So we thought, 'Why not do both?'"

Why not, indeed! It's a concept everyone seems to find agreeable. Expect to see a steam table of Chinese fast-food staples: orange chicken, beef with broccoli, chow mein and fried rice. The Chinese-American menu offers all the classics and then some, there are three variations of lo mein (shrimp, seafood or beef), but stick with the beef chow fun, a traditional Cantonese dish of flat rice noodles, tender beef and crunchy bean sprouts. The Americanized combo plate allows you to choose from one, two or three entrées, depending on how much you want to smush into a styrofoam to-go box, for less than $8. The cut-off time for takeout Chinese is 2 p.m.—this is also the time the restaurant transitions to its wok-experience menu.

Chinese-style wok-fried rice dishes include yang chow fried rice (from the city of Yangzhou in Jiangsu province) and seafood stir-fried rice with xo sauce (a spicy seafood sauce that originated in Hong Kong), as well as basic beef, chicken and vegetable options. Spicy morsels of kung pao chicken are marinated in a sweet-heat sauce and served with white rice. The dish is also available with shrimp or beef. Other savory nuanced eats include hearty portions of honey-glazed walnut shrimp, mongolian beef and ginger-steamed fish fillet.

Pho is available all day; the restaurant offers all the heavy hitters, including pho tai, pho bo vien and pho ga, all in a strongly fragrant, flavorful broth. If you're looking for something on the cooler side, go with a vermicelli bowl...we like the grilled shrimp paired with daikon radishes, carrots and bean sprouts...then topped with fresh herbs. You can also get chicken or tofu bowls.

Side dishes and appetizers are a combination of Chinese, American and Vietnamese bites that range from jellyfish salad, spring rolls and egg rolls to popcorn chicken. Wok-In also offers a decent amount of vegetarian dishes, such as mapo tofu drenched in a thin chile sauce, house special cauliflower lo mein and hot and sour soup.

Unlike at most greasy Chinese fast food joints, everything here is made fresh to order. In fact, you need to call a day in advance for the specialty lobster and sea bass dishes. It doesn't get any better than a hole in the wall that marries two of your favorite cuisines for the ultimate bang bang.

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» CYNTHIA REBOLLEDO

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ANNE MARIE PANORINGAN

Cross-cultural Fantasy

Bone marrow and oxtail fried rice from Tebo Pho & Tea

Rice is one of those foods that crosses cultural borders. Asian, Mexican and Italian menus all serve some form of the grain, and you get a damn good bang for your buck. Throw in some protein and veg, and it's a complete meal! Leftovers? If you manage some self-control, that's one less lunch to think about. And nobody minds if you give it a bit of hot sauce. The rice you didn't know you were craving is found in the corner of a crazy busy Irvine plaza. (Oh, wait. They're all like that.)

Served in a stone pot, you'd expect the crispiest bits (a.k.a. the best part) of the bone marrow and oxtail fried rice to stick to the bottom. Not in Tebo Pho & Tea's case. This dish serves up a non-sticky bowlful of crunchy delight—no scraping required.

And those juicy nuggets of oxtail buried throughout are first simmered on the bone for at least five hours in the same vessel as Tebo's beef pho broth. Finished with a fistful of scallions, runny yolk and that marrow, all that's left to do involves your spoon and a good stir. Okay, and maybe some hot sauce. Every bite is as good as the last. Order from a list of colorful teas to wash it down, and brace yourself for that fantastic food coma.

TEBO PHO & TEA
14120 Culver Dr., Irvine, (949) 536-5353

EAT THIS NOW

» ANNE MARIE PANORINGAN

DRINK OF THE WEEK

» CYNTHIA REBOLLEDO

Three Sheets at SOCIAL

It's time to add SOCIAL to your cocktail-bar rotation. Bar director Grayson Dierckxmeier (formerly of Saint & Second in Long Beach) is taking the art of mixology to the next level with an entirely revamped bar program complete with culinary-driven bespoke cocktails. He's crafted a list of seasonal drinks that reinvent the classics alongside exciting original concoctions that are complex and precisely made. For your first drink, start with Three Sheets.

THE DRINK

A vibrant tropical cocktail, the subtleties of Cotswater spiced rum shine through when blended with herbaceous Opah liqueur. It's mixed with coconut, lime and warm roasted kabocha squash, then garnished with a yellow blossom. The flavor is savory with a five-spice earthiness that finishes creamy. Cheers to tiki drinks in fall and SOCIAL's cocktail game!

CYNTHIA REBOLLEDO

SOCIAL
612 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa, (949) 642-2425, www.socialcostamesa.com.

What We Deserve

Ellie's offers something more Silver Lake than LBC

SARAH BENNETT

It's no secret that Long Beach's restaurant scene has been on a precipitous rise in the last few years, bringing with it new cuisines (raw!), thoughtful chefs (Philip Pretty!) and a farm-to-table ethos that has always felt more Silver Lake cafe than working-class LBC. But I still wonder if Long Beach even wants or needs the kinds of creative neighborhood bistros that Angelenos consistently flock to. ("This is why we can't have nice things," I say to myself every time I see the veteran-luring Alsatian restaurant 4th and Olive with an empty dining room.)

Ellie's—which recently took over the institutional, if inconsistent, At Last Cafe on the corner of Second Street and Orange Avenue—is telling us that we deserve better, that we don't have to do a date night at Michael's on Naples for handmade pasta or wait for a table at Restauration for a chance to eat the culinary art of a highly skilled chef.

Chef Jason Witzl is a Whittier native who has by far the most impressive résumé of any chef in Long Beach right now. Since the age of 17, when he started washing dishes at famed uptown dive the 6740, Witzl has been moving up the ranks in upscale kitchens across LA County, from the groundbreaking Campanile to the Michelin-starred Water Grill to the James Beard-nominated Manhattan Beach Post. In between, he spent time in Spain at the world-renowned, three-Michelin-starred Martin Berasategui and worked under acclaimed chefs such as David Lefevre and Brian Malarkey.

With such impressive credentials, it's easy to wonder why Witzl decided to open his white-tablecloth California-Italian concept in a borderline-residential location in the heart of a city long content with dive bars and takeout joints. It's best not to think about such things, though, and just enjoy Witzl's seasonal menu of imaginative pastas and share plates, which are currently lush with apples, winter squash and cauliflower.

That is, if you can afford $16 plates of pasta and $6 herb fries on the regular. Even though dishes such as the light and creamy tagliatelle (Laughing Bird shrimp, 'Nduja), Calabrian-inspired ahi tuna crudo (with pistachios, beets and chiles) and roasted carrots (nearly caramelized with mushrooms and mustard crema) are all exquisitely crafted, beautifully plated and clearly conceived with native ingredients and pan-Italian traditions, Ellie's remains out of reach both conceptually and financially for many Long Beach diners.

Though the same money can get you full on tacos or Thai, your $5 is well-spent on a plate of grilled bread. Once you dip the crunchy-soft slices of rustic Pughese loaf into the heavenly saba-infused pork butter, you'll understand why it's really a steal.

I wish some of Witzl's expertly molded pastas (his eggy spaghetti, a dumpling-like agnolotti, the "silk handkerchief" mandilli) and decadent, savory sauces (that short rib bolognese!) were available in a build-your-own, mix-and-match format, similar to what the now-shuttered P3 offered. His own complex combinations are on point, but this could be a way to ease the fears of locals who see white tablecloths as a mark of gentrification. In the meantime, a nightly $25 quarterie menu is a great place for newcomers to start. Part omakase, part prix fixe, it lets you select your pasta dish around which the kitchen will build a meal, sending out an appetizer and dessert based not only on what you ordered, but also on whatever looks best that day.

As with 4th and Olive, Ellie's is slightly ahead of its time, but that doesn't mean it has to be. Witzl just might prove to Long Beach that it deserves something cozy and creative that perhaps was once considered more Silver Lake, but with the right chef and the the right approach, can become an integral part of working-class LBC.

ELLIE S
204 Orange Ave., Long Beach, (562) 437-4837, elliesbc.com

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» SARAH BENNETT

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WALT DISNEY STUDIOS

To Die For

Pixar's *Coco* celebrates *Día de los Muertos* with respect—and a great story

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

With *Día de los Muertos* becoming ever-more popular on this side of the border, the film *Coco* arrives right on time. Pixar finds a bridge between the cultural authenticity of the centuries-old Mexican tradition and its emerging commercial appeal through a heartwarming tale about the importance of family, told with respect to the people it honors.

Via an artfully done exposition on *papel picado*, we're introduced to the Rivera family, shoemakers by trade and keepers of a music-hating lineage. See, generations ago, a dashing musician left the matriarch and her daughter Coco behind in pursuit of his dreams. The original sin remains unforgiven ever since, the Riveras leave a family picture with his head ripped off atop the Day of the Dead *ofrenda* in their home.

Music still runs through the family's blood, even if it's repressed. Miguel Rivera (Anthony Gonzalez) fashions a white guitar with the head decorated like a *calavera*, an imitation of the shimmering instrument of his idol, Ernesto de la Cruz (Benjamin Bratt). American audiences will liken the late De la Cruz to Elvis Presley, but his proper inspiration belongs to Mexico's great singers, including Antonio Aguilar, Pedro Infante and Javier Solís, who also graced the silver screen during the Golden Era of Mexican cinema.

Coco scores big laughs with culturally informed humor before exploring its emotional core. When the rambunctious 12-year-old shines the shoes of a mariachi, the musician lends him his guitar to play. But before Miguel can manage a strum, his *abuelita* arrives with a *chancla* she hilariously twirls with the skill of a ninja. With a big Day of the Dead talent show at the town's plaza, he sneaks into De la Cruz's mausoleum at night, where he takes his hero's famed guitar from its place perched above the tomb and is thrust into the Land of the Dead after a single, magical strum.

Miguel's deceased family finds him in the cemetery, where it's discovered he can return to the Land of the Living with a blessing upon a *cempasúchil* flower leaf, one his great-great grandmother Imelda offers on the condition he forgo a life of music. Finding the Land of the Dead just as unforgiving, Miguel sets off in search of De la Cruz through the grand metropolis populated by skeletal souls. He meets Hector (Gael García Bernal) along the way, a likeable trickster who claims to have known De la Cruz in his past life. Both race against time and surprising plot twists, with the twin dangers of Miguel turning into a skeleton and Hector fading from memory forever before Day of the Dead's end.

Directed by Lee Unkrich and Adrian Molina, *Coco* doesn't have a single political bone in its body. But in these Trump times, celebrating Mexican culture alone is activism. García even dedicated the film to children whose family members are being vilified by the White House. More subtly, not only will new audiences learn about Day of the Dead, but ones familiar with it already will feel at home, as well. The film is seamlessly bicultural. "*¡No manches!*" Miguel tells Hector during their adventures, a charming one-liner that's as surprising to hear as it is funny. And although Miguel is the lead character, he's supported by a strong family with an *abuelita* anchoring them all.

Four years ago, *Coco* didn't seem well-positioned to pull off the feat given that Disney, Pixar's benefactor, tried to trademark the phrase "*Dia de los Muertos*" ahead of the planned film project. Petitions stormed online until Disney withdrew the filing and announced a name change for the film within hours. Controversy arose again when trailers for *Coco* revealed parallels between it and the 2014 animated film *The Book of Life*. Both celebrated Day of the Dead while centering on guitar-wielding protagonists, a similarity that proves to be surface level only.

The only big drawback to *Coco* is that its standout song, "Remember Me," isn't memorable, especially for a film in which music is everything. The tune morphs from mariachi to lullaby, but for all the crossover appeal, it loses a bit of its emotional feel in English. "Remember Me" won't likely enjoy the lasting life of such other Pixar tunes as *Toy Story*'s "You've Got a Friend in Me."

That aside, *Coco* clearly honors our *ancestros*. It's impossible to not feel grief wad in your throat when watching the skeletal afterlife of the film's Tío Oscar or Tía Victoria or to not think of your own loved ones long passed on. What emerges by the end is one of the best Day of the Dead tales since Mexico's own *Macario*, the country's first Academy Award nominee for Best Foreign Language Film in 1961. *Coco* is already Mexico's highest grossing film ever.

Beyond getting all the cultural cues right, *Coco* also finds the holiday's true meaning: Death doesn't come when we cease to breathe, but rather when we are forgotten by the living. It's a lesson for the ages.

GSANROMAN@OCWEEKLY.COM

COCO

was directed by Lee Unkrich and Adnan Molina, written by Adnan Molina, and stars the voices of Benjamin Bratt, Gael García Bernal and Anthony Gonzalez.

Air Miller

BY MATT COKER

Clueless. I'd wager this "Date Night at the Frida" movie from 1995 features the best performance by Alicia Silverstone so far. *The Frida Cinema, 305 E. Fourth St., Santa Ana; thefridacinema.org. Fri., 7:30 p.m. $7-$10.*

A Silent Voice. The Movie. In Naoko Yamada's anime, sixth-grader Shoko Nishimiya moves to an elementary school where her hearing disability makes her the target of bully Shoya Ishida. But years later, the tables turn on him. *Art Theatre, 2025 E. Fourth St., Long Beach, (562) 438-5435. Fri., 11 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., 11 a.m. $8.50-$11.50.*

The Warriors. *OC Weekly*'s Friday Night Freakouts entry is the 1979 flick that still has "Warriors, come out and play-yay!" ringing in my head. Paramount Pictures has provided the Frida with a 4K Remaster of Walter Hill's classic. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Fri., 11 p.m.; Sat., 10 p.m. $7-$10.*

The Birdcage. Mike Nichol's remake casts the late, great Robin Williams as the popular Miami drag club the Birdcage's gay owner, whose son is getting married to the daughter of a controversial Republican senator. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Sat., 2:30 & 5 p.m. $7-$10.*

In the Mouth of Madness. Some John Carpenter die-hards consider this his best flick. *Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Sat., 8 p.m. $7-$10.*

The Rocky Horror Picture Show. Watch what's on and in front of the screen thanks to shadow cast Midnight Insanity. *Art Theatre, (562) 438-5435. Sat., 11:55 p.m. $8.50-$11.50.*

WARREN MILLER'S LINE OF DESCENT

WARREN MILLER ENTERTAINMENT

Howl's Moving Castle. The GKIDS/Fathom Events Studio Ghibli Fest 2017 concludes after six months with the GKIDS Manifest, which shows award-winning animated short films from around the world, and this acclaimed feature-length anime from 2004 that scored an Oscar nomination. *Various theaters; www.fathomevents.com. Sun., 12:55 p.m. (dubbed in English from the original Japanese), Mon., 7 p.m. (in Japanese with English subtitles), Wed., 7 p.m. (dubbed) $12.50.*

Batman: Mask of the Phantasm. The story retraces the Dark Knight's origins and his early attempts to capture the elusive villain Phantasm, who framed Batman for the murder of a crime lord. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Sun., 5 p.m., Wed., 7:30 p.m. $7-$10.*

Withnail & I. Bruce Robinson's acclaimed 1986 cult classic, which is presented in the director's uncut version, is set in 1960s London. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Mon.-Tues., 8 p.m. $7-$10.*

The Met Live in HD/*The Exterminating Angel.* Thomas Adès' surreal fantasy, which was inspired by the classic Luis Buñuel film of the same name, is about a dinner party from which the guests can't escape. *Various theaters; www.fathomevents.com Wed., 1 & 6:30 p.m. $18-$24*

The Nightmare Before Christmas. Halloweentown's beloved pumpkin king Jack Skellington becomes bored with frightening people before accidentally stumbling upon Christmastown, whose bright colors and warm spirits give him a new lease on life. Grab a spot early; bring friends, family, chairs and blankets; but know going in that outside food and drinks are not permitted. You can get them at surrounding stands and restaurants. *Pacific City, Level 2 (near Saint Marc and Smocking Birds), 21010 Pacific Coast Hwy., Huntington Beach; www.gopacificcity.com/events/ Wed., 6 p.m. Free*

Une vie de chat (A Cat's Life). Alain Gagnol and Jean-Loup Felicioli's Oscar-nominated 2010 animated adventure/crime thriller is about a cat that lives a double life. The Fall French Film Series is presented by the French Language Program. *UC Irvine, McCormick Screening Room, Humanities Gateway 1070, Campus and West Peltason drives, Irvine, (949) 824-6117. Wed., 6 p.m. Free.*

Hook. Steven Spielberg's somewhat-effective live-action film continues the Peter Pan tale with the now-grown Peter learning how to be Pan again so he can join Tinkerbell and the Lost Boys in battling Hook. *Regency South Coast Village, 1561 Sunflower Ave., Santa Ana, (714) 557-5701. Wed., 7:30 p.m. $9.*

Appaloosa. Before Ed Harris chewed up the scenery on HBO's *Westworld*, he directed, co-wrote and played the lead in this 2008 western based on crime writer Robert B. Parker's novel of the same name. Parents should know that although this is being shown in a library, the flick is rated R for language and some violence. *Fullerton Main Library, 353 W. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton, (714) 738-6327 Thurs., Nov. 30, 1 p.m. Free*

Patsy Mink: Ahead of the Majority. Asian American Studies presents Kimberlee Bassford's 2008 documentary on Patsy Takemoto Mink, a third-generation Japanese American from Hawaii, the first woman of color to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives and a 1972 candidate for president. While in Congress, she co-sponsored Title IX and other important legislation to advocate for women's rights, civil rights, environmental protection and peace; imagine our lives now had she won the White House. *UC Irvine, McCormick Screening Room, (949) 824-6117. Thurs., Nov. 30, 5 p.m. Free.*

Warren Miller's Line of Descent. Snow-skiing icons who've made the mountains their home and raised the next generation of winter adventurers are captured around the world in the Warren Miller family's 68th cinematic (and unofficial) kickoff to the winter ski and snowboard season. Viewers go to New Zealand, the French Alps, Norway, British Columbia and Jackson Hole, Wyoming, to see legends Tommy Moe, Jess McMillan, Jean-Claude Killy and more. *Lido Theatre, 3459 Via Lido, Newport Beach; www.warnermiller.com. Thurs., Nov. 30, 7 p.m. $19.*

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About Schmitt

A controversial German philosopher inspires a UC Irvine exhibit's exploration of 'us' and 'them'

BY DAVE BARTON

Stepping into the dark hallway leading to Omar Mismar's film installation, "Schmitt, You and Me," at UC Irvine's Room Gallery, you see a paper target peppered with seven bullet holes, each hit in areas that would devastate vital organs. It's difficult to view with perfect clarity, but in the upper-right corner, there's a complimentary, handwritten note along the lines of "Great Job!" that's signed and dated by an employee of Staple Gun Shop in Skowhegan, Maine. You can step up to the target and peer through the bullet holes, the film playing on the other side.

The film, screened on the other side of this paper, plays on a loop, its first shots showing the camera lens going in and out of focus on its subjects, two gun-store employees. Like a Central Casting cliché, the duo is middle-aged, white, wearing baseball caps (one with the store logo on it, the other with "Trump Fence Building Co. Free Installation" stitched onto the front panels) and T-shirts in various states of cleanliness or grime, and standing against a row of rifles and semi-automatic weapons. It's a picture-perfect beginning, the artist literally focusing on the two men and what they're saying.

Or, to be more specific, what they're reading. The two fumble their way through several pages from the extraordinarily complex work of German philosopher Carl Schmitt. My superficial understanding of his "friend" and "enemy" paradigm—based on my reading and curator Juli Carson's incisive, if overwritten, exhibition pamphlet—is that the labels are often inaccurate ways political organizations perpetuate the separation of "us" and "them." This increasing dissociation is passed to groups of people that are within the organization, eventually leading to factions of people gathering together under one banner or another, with the end result an act of violence. What's not explained in the film is that Schmitt was an unrepentant Nazi Party member hauled in front of the Nuremberg Trials for his collaboration and that the writings are his defensive apologia for fascism and anti-Semitism.

The men mispronounce words and steamroll through the dense academic text without nuance, and at first, they have no clear understanding of what they're reading. Sections repeat more than once, with each of the men stopping and starting as they feel more comfortable with the material, have a question for Mismar, or answer phone calls and customer queries. The artist periodically asks them to try to look at the camera as they read, but he otherwise stays relatively silent, respectfully correcting a pronunciation or offering a word definition only when one of the men gets confused and specifically asks for it.

JEFF MCLANE

If your initial reaction is that this sounds back-handed, that Mismar is mocking the two men he's friendly with, trying to link them and the way they make a living with Nazi propaganda, think again. In between readings, the artist leaves the camera rolling as the two men discuss fear, the purchase of guns for self-defense, and their understanding of Schmitt's words; Mismar occasionally joins in quietly as they debate the text. As the conversation inevitably leads to the Middle East and what ISIS and the U.S. want out of the conflict, you can even see their eyes drift quickly over to the artist, who is Lebanese-American. Is it an uncovered, covert racism? Discomfort over a personal conversation caught on camera? A cautious sign of respect for someone they know and clearly like? All three? Something else entirely? We're not privy to that information, and it's telling that it doesn't really matter.

As is often the case in politics, we demonize one another irrespective of the actual facts, dividing and conquering as we circle the wagons with people who feel the same way we do. While arguing policy might be difficult in today's political climate, enough so that we often can't even agree on the same points of reference, the film seems to be saying that what is important is that we maintain the dialogue, while understanding the real (and imagined) baggage we carry into the conversation and project on one another.

As you round the corner to exit, you pass a series of mirrored letters applied backwards on the wall. A single light bung overhead hits the glass and bounces onto the opposite wall the reflection of the haunting, existential warning: "The Enemy is the Embodiment of Your Own Question." Hear the men reading as you once more walk by their images flickering through the bullet holes. The reflection, which you can see yourself fleetingly mirrored in, is of Schmitt's words, of course, and while I'm loathe to do anything with Nazis except punch them in the face, at this time, those words seem to be particularly insightful all these years later.

"SCHMITT, YOU AND ME"
at UC Irvine's Room Gallery, 712 Arts Plaza, Irvine. (949) 824-9854, uag.arts.uci.edu. Open Tues.-Sat., noon-6 p.m. Through Dec. 16. Free.

TrendZilla

» AIMEE MURILLO

Don't Get Activated!

Activated charcoal—a form of charcoal that is carbon-processed to a porous state to absorb hydrophobic toxins—is an ingredient found in hundreds, if not thousands, of health and beauty products worldwide, from face washes to toothpastes. Hell, my daily skincare regimen includes two to four such different products. But for the past couple of years, activated charcoal has quietly made its way into our cultural consciousness as a healthy way to cleanse our toxic inner waste for a salubrious life. That it makes food jetblack? Total hipster bait.

The range of activated charcoal foods in Orange County abound: OC-based chain Nekter Juice Bar offers a Skinny Lemonade with probiotic powers, as well as a Charcoal Vanilla Skoop frozen treat; Fashion Island's Juice Served Here has its own version of Charcoal Lemonade; Cauldron Ice Cream in Santa Ana served a black sesame charcoal flavor called Bleck Skellington in October; and even the Farmhouse at Roger's Gardens offers an activated-charcoal cocktail with Blinking Owl equavit called the Can't We All Just Get Along? (Wow, racist much?)

But is activated charcoal in foods actually good for you? The short answer is not really. Although activated charcoal has been ingested in medicinal forms to cure poisoning and in pills to help with digestion, as a detoxifier, it works too well, flushing crucial nutrients out of your body—even other prescribed medications you're taking, including birth control. Inflammation of the intestines can also happen, so, if anything, a couple of sips after a meal is the most you should take per day. But, honestly, you're much better off consuming fresh greens, flax seed, bananas and water for your detoxing needs.

We would do better to stay away from anything labeled a "miracle" or "superfood" or any diet trends in general. Take it from me: I once downed a shot of apple cider vinegar after hearing it was a great detoxifier and minutes later, was doubled over a sink and throwing up. Just don't do it!

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Not Exactly Disneyland

A historical roller-coaster ride through some of OC's less-than-famous theme parks

As the county that can boast being home to both America's first theme park and the world's most famous theme park, Orange County history is closely intertwined with that of amusement parks. And while the one park with a mouse and the other with a beagle continue to draw tourists from the world over, OC has played host to a variety of bizarre and unique attractions that didn't survive. And when you read about the crazy shit these places offered, it makes sense none of these joints has a place in today's litigious society. To wit:

California Alligator Farm. The Los Angeles Alligator Farm originally opened in 1907 in Lincoln Heights before it was renamed and relocated across the street from Knott's Berry Farm on La Palma Avenue in Buena Park in 1953. The park entertained locals and tourists alike with a congregation of alligators and other exotic reptiles. Visitors could take photos sitting on an alligator's back or even feed the hungry gators raw chicken—imagine that happening in 2017! It operated until 1984, when the deadly combination of plummeting attendance and an expired lease shuttered its gates (Wally Gator just didn't have the sex appeal he did in '62 anymore). A Knott's overflow parking lot now sits where the gators used to roam (or lounge idly in the sun until feeding time, whatever).

Japanese Village and Deer Park. Everybody smoked in the 1960s—even the fish! Buena Park's Japanese Village and Deer Park reportedly had a $700 50-year-old koi fish named Old Gold who was trained to take puffs on cigarettes and even play poker to amuse visitors. The park was opened on Knott Avenue in 1967 by Allen Parkinson, who also opened the now-shuttered Movieland Wax Museum in the same city. Inspired by a deer park in Nara, Japan, the main attraction was some 300 docile and majestic Japanese deer, which attendees could hand feed biscuits. They had a Sea World-like marine mammal show, with trained dolphins and sea lions performing tricks for treats. The Deer Park only operated for eight years before the new owners, Six Flags, shut it down in 1975. Toward the end of its run, some 200 deer were diagnosed with tuberculosis and died. The most tragic cervine story since *Bambi*.

Lion Country Safari. File this one under shit that would not fly today: a 140-acre pseudo African safari with real exotic animals and no fences. The only thing between you and the animals was the frame of your Buick—and yes, the animals would come right up to your car. To be fair, cars were a lot sturdier then—I wouldn't place a whole lot of confidence in a Honda Fit pitted off against the weight of a 400-pound lion. But back then, lions would jump on the hood of your car, and giraffes would put their noses through your window in search of treats. No convertibles allowed, though. Irvine Meadows Amphitheater was built next door in 1981, and by 1986, the savannah of Irvine had been replaced by Wild Rivers water park. Now, both attractions have been shuttered to make way for—what else?—more beige apartments.

YesterNow
» TAYLOR HAMBY

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Bar None

From Cuba to San Clemente Art Supply

UNKNOWN CUBAN ARTIST

Before my cousin went on a spur-of-the-moment trip to Cuba thanks to an old high-school buddy, I asked him to buy me a painting from a Havana street artist for around $20, but to not go out of his way to hunt one down. He refused my cash.

For that paltry sum, I anticipated something small yet colorful, even garish, with maybe a cigar. What he brought back was vivid with beefy Buicks and multicolored apartment buildings, and it was much bigger than expected. The plan was to staple the canvas to stretcher bars and hang it frameless, but its dimensions were nowhere near American standard sizes.

I went to a nearby Aaron Brothers to figure out what size bars would work without losing too much of the image and discovered the store no longer stocks them. Turns out, none of the so-called art-supply big boxes does. Worse, the quote for doing the work for me was an alarming $260! Total and utter rip-off.

So I dug around and found only three places in OC that sell stretcher bars. Art Supply Warehouse in Westminster, Blick in Fullerton and San Clemente Art Supply, which is where I headed.

It's a bit hard to find the 1920s historic spot at the north end of El Camino Real because of all the foliage. Back in the 1930s, it housed a restaurant called Casa de Amigos. By the time Patti and Richard Herdell acquired the place for their art shop in the early aughts, there was a second structure, which they turned into a studio. The space feels as if people have been making art there since the restaurant was open.

While the calm clerk in the shop helped me decide what size bars to get, I noticed a custom-framing section with an extensive selection. Out of curiosity, I asked for a quote on mounting my Cuban painting and was astonished it was one-fifth of what that old chain was going to charge. The notion that small businesses are more costly just isn't true at this family-owned-and-run art center.

As for color, it's available in every medium and hue for any surface—in inks, tints, dyes, pastes and powders. And locked behind steal cages are spraypaints by MTN 94 and Gold, where a hand-drawn sign explains their excellent qualities and possible uses, including "industry, plumbing, fine art and graffiti." There's even a room devoted to paper. Raid the corner sale rack for items you'd never use otherwise to see where they lead.

The studio is in constant use. Live models sit for life drawing and costumed painting classes. International artists teach the techniques of Old Dutch masters, and oil workshops are ongoing. Past sessions held such intriguing titles as "Liquid Lead Portraiture." Wine drinking is often involved, with a monthly Paint & Sip class geared to all skill levels. Bring your own wine on Dec. 1 for a printing workshop, where you can learn to make and transfer a linocut. Create a band logo, a holiday-themed image or, better yet, a Buick.

My painting was mounted with minimal loss of image, and all staples were hidden—no surprise for these museum-quality framers. Check the place out this weekend for Small Business Saturday, though the art center is worth frequenting any day of the year, even if all you make is outsider art.

PAINTITBLACK
» LISA BLACK
LBLACK@OCWEEKLY.COM

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A Sign of the Times

The last shred of VIP Records deserves historic hip-hop status

BY NATE JACKSON

No matter where Kelvin Anderson has traveled in the world over the past few decades, any time he asks strangers to name two places in Long Beach, the answer is always the same: The *Queen Mary* and VIP Records. "One thing about the [VIP] brand is when people see that logo, they light up, and it's always a pleasant conversation," Anderson says.

Of those two world-famous landmarks, the former has become so marred by neglect that repairs will cost hundreds of millions of dollars to fix. The latter, though on a slightly smaller scale, was gutted and closed in 2015. The only thing that truly remains of the World Famous VIP Records (besides the back stock) is the 20-foot-tall, Google-style sign that sits defiantly on top of the building's new tenant, a 7-Eleven.

As the longtime owner of VIP watched his store rose to fame in the early '90s thanks to its integral role in the history of West Coast hip-hop and its cameo in a host of music videos including Snoop Dogg's Who Am I (What's My Name?)," that alone was probably enough for the city's Cultural Heritage Commission to vote, as they did last week, to approve the sign being listed as a historical landmark. The final vote, which comes from the City Council, is expected in late December or early January.

But the list of rappers who helped forge that fame aren't the only reason this cultural beacon on the corner of Pacific Coast Highway and Martin Luther King Boulevard should be preserved. At the meeting for the Cultural Heritage Commission at Long Beach City Hall last week, no one lobbying for the sign's designation as a historic landmark was a celebrity, except maybe Trip Locc of legendary rap duo the Twinz. However, everyone shared stories of how Anderson, a.k.a. "Pops," and VIP Records forever changed their lives for the better.

"I was a young knucklehead out in these Long Beach streets. I happened to meet Kelvin when I stopped by VIP to buy some records, and he told me they'd be hiring, so he took me off the streets and helped transform me from a knucklehead to one of the most well-known DJs in Long Beach," says veteran crate digger DJ P, one of the original employees at VIP. "He's like a father to me — an icon in our neighborhood."

The entire evening felt like a flashback to an era when the most historic thing to happen in Long Beach outside of music was the LA Riots. As the city continues to expand and plaster new façades over its fading architecture, it's hard to ignore what segment of Long Beach's history is being neglected. Of the 100 historic landmarks in Long Beach, only two have anything to do with African-American culture. One is a Craftsman bungalow belonging to the late civil-rights pioneer Ernest S. McBride, the local founder of the NAACP.

Meanwhile, one of the most important black-owned businesses in the city, drowned financially by music's digital deluge, was unceremoniously shuttered and forced into a small storefront, its owner stripped of what should be a comfortable retirement. But during the council meeting last week, it was clear Anderson's legacy hasn't faded in the minds of people such as Tromaine Ellis, a.k.a. The LBC Photographer, who began shooting photos and video as a young community-college student and part-time drug dealer when Anderson allowed him to make a film in the VIP parking lot, inspiring him to follow his passion for photography.

"If it wasn't for Kelvin Anderson spending his time with us like a second father, I'd probably be locked up or dead by now," Ellis told the commission.

While rap has been VIP's forte for years, few recognize its relevance in the gospel, jazz, blues, reggae and funk scenes that made Long Beach culture into what it is today. The store shaped the local youth community by giving them opportunities to succeed through music. When Anderson turned an underutilized backroom into a recording studio in the early '90s, it was the first time they had a place to go to get off the streets to be a part of something positive. "He allowed us the opportunity to let the music be heard and created an experience in VIP records," said VIP branding president Shirin Senegal. "An experience for young people in a place where they wouldn't otherwise have an opportunity in a tough part of Long Beach, to have a place of hope where they could see a star, where they could record, where they could be inspired."

Over the years, various artists who got their start through being part of the VIP community have come back to thank Anderson. "Not just people who have gotten world-wide recognition as far as artists," says Anderson's daughter Tenisha, "but there are small people who end up having their creativity catapulted through the city of Long Beach through my father."

Before the commission voted, local rappers, small-business owners, customers of all races and backgrounds (even State Treasurer John Chiang) spoke on his behalf. "I was very touched by the various testimonies from people, even though I already know how they felt about me, but when you hear it, that's a little different," Anderson says. "I just look forward to the future, and I know going from the end of 2015, when I was going out of business and selling the sign on eBay, to where we are today, knowing the sign is becoming a historical landmark, will open up other opportunities for VIP."

NATE JACKSON

Though most people view the sign as an emblem of hip-hop culture, Tenisha sees it differently. "When I look at that sign, I don't see the man who put it there," she says. "I see my father standing on top of that roof, next to that big record, and for me, it's a symbol that he continues to show love to a community that continues to show love for him, and I am grateful for that."

Following the unanimous vote by the Cultural Heritage Commission, the sign will be removed from its current location at 1030 Pacific Coast Highway and will remain in storage as plans for the restoration take shape. Senegal and Anderson intend to ensure that wherever the sign lands, it stands as tall and proud as it once did. According to Senegal, she and Anderson submitted a bid on a city-owned lot across the street with the hope of reincarnating VIP as a media, technology and small-business development center.

Meanwhile, the city should look at the motives behind the systematic erasing of its history to make progress—which, in this case, feels like the opposite. "To see that VIP Records is not there and to see that where there was once a liquor store, where we once had so many problems, [is now a convenience store] makes me wonder what is going on," says Michael Baker, a small-business owner who has lived in Long Beach for 57 years. "We have a historical landmark that should be petitioned there, but yet we're going backwards and putting in a 7-Eleven."

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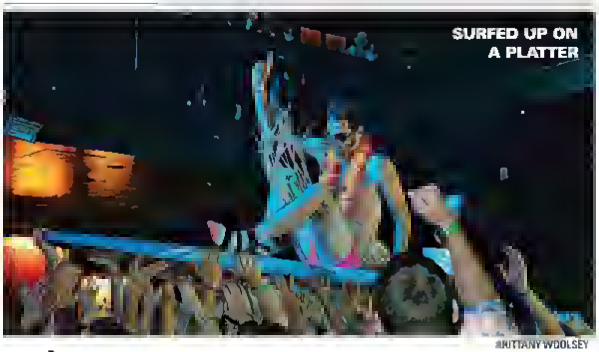

BRITTANY WOOLSEY

The Season to Be Skankful

Ska Luau brings island warmth and wackiness to the holidays

BY BRITTANY WOOLSEY

While most people would think of winter as a time to bundle up in sweaters and jackets, the Orange County ska community sees it as the season for Hawaiian-printed clothing and grass skirts.

In its seventh year, the Ska Luau—which celebrates the megaband Starpool, composed of former members of No Doubt and Save Ferris—remains strong. "It's the big, exciting show of the year for us at the end of every year," says Alan Meade, lead vocalist for Starpool. "Everyone knows we only have the opportunity to play just a few times a year, so for this particular show, we get to have it at an awesome and larger venue, blow it up, and invite all of our friends and family to plan some shenanigans."

Meade says Starpool shows have been so rare simply because of the complexity of coordinating all the band members' schedules, comparing it to "trying to get eight guys to decide what to put on a pizza."

Meade says the show is something the Orange County "ska family" always looks forward to every winter. But the band look forward to it as much as the fans do. "I think the rest of the band and I are all just glad they still come and have fun with us every year we do it," Meade says. "I think it's because of the silliness of the name. I know there are a lot of themed shows with fun titles, but Ska Luau just sounds fun."

Saturday's show at the House of Blues also features sets from Ska Luau regulars Suburban Legends and Half Past Two, as well as lineup newcomers Skapeche Mode and For Pete's Sake.

"These are two fun bands," Meade says. "If you like Depeche Mode, you'll love the fun and crazy ska versions of their songs from Skapeche Mode. I'm also so excited for my first time seeing For Pete's Sake, which will have our drummer Evan [Kilbourne] banging away."

The event is the brainchild of guitarist Brian Mashburn, who worked with booking agent John Pantle to put together a special show for Starpool that showcased other bands. Around the same time, Mashburn received a call from his former band director about featuring his Polynesian dance troupe in a show. Thus, the Ska Luau was born (although the Polynesian dancers are not on this year's bill).

Attendees are encouraged to wear island-inspired clothing, and flower leis are usually provided to help fans get into the spirit. The show also usually includes plenty of surprises, including Starpool trombone player T-Bone Willy doing his crowd-surfing routine, which changes in theme each year.

Usually the event is held closer to Christmas or the New Year, but when Starpool saw the opportunity to host a "Skanksgiving" this year, they decided to take it.

"I like to call it our end-of-the-year party," Meade says. "Ska Luau is an all-ages, family-friendly live concert where you can dress how you want and be yourselves while you dance and skank to some of your favorite bands. What other yearly themed show can parents bring their kids to and have fun with them to music they can all equally enjoy?"

SKA LUAU

featuring Starpool, Suburban Legends, Half Past Two, Skapeche Mode and For Pete's Sake at the House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk, 400 W. Disney Way, Ste. 337, Anaheim, (714) 778-2583; www.houseofblues.com/anaheim. Sat., 7 p.m. $10 in advance, $15 at the door. All ages.

Mariachi You Can Mosh To

Metalachi pay homage to their heritage and head-banging heroes

BY ALEX DISTEFANO

COURTESY OF METALACHI

What would happen to a young Mexican-American musician who was brought up with traditional mariachi music, but in his teens discovered the heroes of hard rock and heavy metal such as Black Sabbath? This is where the concept for Metalachi was born. Struggling with opposing musical genres in the 1990s, they took the loud, wild, sleazy and decadent vibes of heavy metal songs and played them in the Mexican folk music style.

Since then, Metalachi have been blowing minds and bursting ear drums, all with a high level of musicianship, showmanship, creativity and tongue-in-cheek humor. They spend most of their time on the road, breaking down musical and cultural barriers one concert at a time. Lead singer Vega De La Rockha spoke with us about their innovative sound.

OC WEEKLY *How did you come up with the concept mixing mariachi music and heavy metal?*

VEGA DE LA ROCKHA Growing up in East LA, I was around both genres, especially mariachi music because of the Mexican background in my family. We were always exposed to this music; it was always around us. Later on, it was the same thing with metal. We loved both styles, so we decided to do something different by starting a band with our own sound and our own instruments, which is all we could afford at the time.

Does any other band out there do what you do or sound like you guys?

As far as we know, we are the only ones. There are no other bands with mariachi and metal music. Some bands coming out might mix in some rock *en Español* or other types, and they might have something a bit similar, but no one else out there does what we do.

How do you pick what songs to play?

We usually play songs that everyone knows—songs that are hard-rock and heavy-metal anthems, ones people can sing along to. People almost always love our songs and receive them pretty well. We get good feedback. Some of the artists we choose to play songs from include Judas Priest, Bon Jovi, Iron Maiden, Guns N' Roses, Metallica, Ozzy, Pantera, even KISS.

Ever have any legal trouble, or have any artists gone after you for playing their songs?

We try to cover our asses, and our management does a good job of helping us out with that. Beforehand, we have to take care of all that stuff, like permission to perform and record these songs. So far, we haven't gotten into any legal problems. And we've had [members] from Slayer and Pantera come to our shows, and tell us they support what we do with our musical concept.

How important is mariachi music to the Mexican culture?

It's extremely important; it is the soul and heart of Mexico. But it goes beyond borders now to Colombia, Peru and other parts of South America. The music is traditional for Mexicans and really defines who we are.

Has heavy metal music always been big in the Mexican culture?

I think it might be bigger today than it ever was. You can go see Metallica, Slayer, Anthrax, Megadeth, the Big 4, and in places such as Mexico City, there are tens of thousands of fans, if not more. Mexicans have always loved bands such as Ozzy Osbourne, Queen, Iron Maiden, KISS, Rush, Metallica and many more. The metal scene all over the country is amazing. It's woven into the culture.

METALACHI

perform in the Parish Room at the House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk, 400 Disney Way, Ste. 337, Anaheim, www.houseofblues.com/anaheim. Fri., 8 p.m. $15. All ages.

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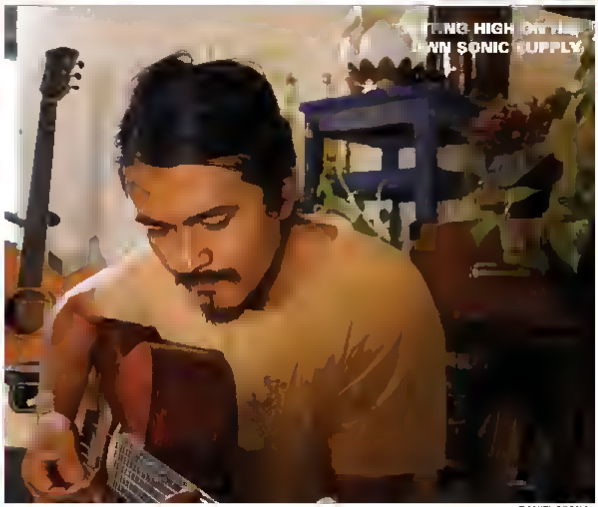

DANIEL ORONA

Flying Solo

Anyone familiar with the dreamy electro-prog/shoegaze of Long Beach band Flying Hand is also wonderfully familiar with singer/guitarist Temo Molina, a largely undiscovered and certainly underappreciated local artist who has spent the past 15 years baring his soul through music.

He recently released his second solo album, *A Little Stoned a Little Hungry*, the follow-up to 2016's *Sundowning*, and, while it might feel he's still fresh to the scene—the 29-year-old has been performing five since he was 15. "I've played in a bunch of bands," Molina says. "There was this band Sybil—I was in that group for eight years. After that, I stopped playing in bands for a while and then around 2012, I started playing in Flying Hand, which, at the time, was me and my friend Christian Orozco. Then I started doing some solo stuff because I was writing a lot. It was too many songs for that band, so I started writing and recording songs on my own."

That's when he began collaborating with Rx Bandits' Chris Tsagakis, a.k.a. C Gak, who also runs the label Headphone Music.

Molina describes his own style as a combination of soul, funk, jazz, hip-hop and progressive rock, which sounds ambitious and even outlandish until you actually sit and listen to the musical tapestries that he creates. His solo material and that of Flying Hand are on the same plane of existance, the only difference being the level of collaboration. "When I have a small idea that I know is good, but I haven't finished it and I'm seeking collaboration on it, I'll bring it to Flying Hand, and then we'll jam on it, and eventually, it'll take shape," he says. "When I'm feeling a little more selfish, I'll keep it for myself."

The prolific songwriter occasionally hides a song away for future solo albums like some musical squirrel. "With this record, I had like, 30 songs, but I didn't want to release all 30," he says. "Chris pushed me to finish some of the songs that I wasn't going to do anything with because I felt they needed a lot of work. He was really stoked on them, so I sent him a few songs and he did some mixes, remixes, and then we had a double album."

In addition to *A Little Stoned a Little Hungry* Molina released his collaboration with Tsagakis *Sound & Fury*, on vinyl. "[Tsagakis] added vibes and drum beats and mixed it a bit," Molina says. "He wanted me to release it under my name, but it was definitely a collaboration."

Molina and Tsagakis also worked together on a video for the song "Flip It on Its Head," with Tsagakis storyboarding and directing it. It's a slow burn of a tune, and the video shows Molina walking slowly while shit gets thrown at him, as per Tsagakis' vision.

"As soon as I heard it, I started having visions in my head, as strange as it may sound: of him getting beaten up in slow motion," Tsagakis recalls. "It's a slow, pleasant, mellow song with a smooth vibe. I thought that juxtaposition would be cool, and it went from there."

Tsagakis might wish he had a bigger budget, but he's pleased with the job he did, and Molina feels that the visuals sit comfortably alongside the song.

Molina hopes to tour the record in December or January, but in the meantime, he remains busy with Flying Hand. For the listeners and fans, that can only be a good thing.

LocalsOnly
» BRETT CALLWOOD

Hey, Orange County/Long Beach musicians & bands! Mail your music, contact info, high-res photos & impending show dates for possible review to: Locals Only, *OC Weekly*, 18475 Bandilier Circle, Fountain Valley, CA 92708. Or email your link to: localsonly@ocweekly.com

THIS WEEK

FRIDAY

THE EVERLY BROTHERR EXPERIENCE 9 p.m., $20. The Coach House, 33157 Camino Capistrano, Ste. C, San Juan Capistrano (949) 496-8930. thecoachhouse.com

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE MUSIC AT THE DEN 9 p.m., free. The Gypsy Den, 125 N. Broadway Ave., Santa Ana (714) 835-3840. gypsyden.com

LIVE JAZZ AND R&B 7 p.m., free. The Derbae Room at Mozambique, 1740 S. Coast Hwy., Laguna Beach (949) 715-7777. mozambiqueoc.com

METALACHI 7 p.m., $15. The Parish at House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk, 400 W. Disney Way, Ste. 337, Anaheim. houseofblues.com/anaheim.

PROOF BAR RESIDENT DJS 9 p.m., free. Proof Bar, 215 N. Broadway, Santa Ana (714) 953-2660. proofbar.com.

RITUAL EDM DJs, 9 p.m., free. Kitsch Bar, 891 Baker St., Ste. A10, Costa Mesa (714) 546-8580. kitschbar.com.

RON KOBAYASHI 10 p.m., free. Bayside Restaurant, 900 Bayside Dr., Newport Beach, (949) 721-1222; baysiderestaurant.com.

SEGA GENECIDE 10 p.m., free. La Cave, 1695 Irvine Ave., Costa Mesa (949) 646-7944, lacaverestaurant.com

SMASH FRIDAYS 9 p.m., free. The Continental Room, 115 W. Santa Fe Ave., Fullerton, (714) 469-1979; facebook.com/ContinentalRoom.

SMUT PEDDLERS 9 p.m., $15. The Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana (714) 957-0600. observatoryoc.com.

TIJUANA NO 9 p.m., $12. Constellation Room at the Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana, (714) 957-0600. constellationroom.com

SATURDAY

EPIC SATURDAYS 2:30 p.m., free. The Continental Room, 115 W. Santa Fe Ave., Fullerton, (714) 469-1979; facebook.com/ContinentalRoom.

FLOCK OF '80S 2:30 p.m., free. The Swallow's Inn, 31786 Camino Capistrano, San Juan Capistrano (949) 493-3199. swallowsinn.com.

HIP-HOP NOORAY 9 p.m., free. Kitsch Bar, 891 Baker St., Ste. A10, Costa Mesa, (714) 546-8580, kitschbar.com

KJAZZ CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH CRUISE noon, $68.95. Horseblower Cruises and Events, 2431 W. Coast Hwy., Ste. 101, Newport Beach (888) 467-6256.

LA TOCADA FEST, presented by Cerveza Modelo, 6 p.m., $85. Anaheim Convention Center, 800 W. Katella Ave., Anaheim (714) 765-8950

LIVE JAZZ AND R&B 7 p.m., free. The Derbae Room at Mozambique, 1740 S. Coast Hwy., Laguna Beach, (949) 715-7777. mozambiqueoc.com

PROOF BAR RESIDENT DJS 9 p.m., free. Proof Bar, 215 N. Broadway, Santa Ana (714) 953-2660. proofbar.com.

SKA LUAU 7—THE SKANKSGIVING, FEATURING STARPOOL & FRIENDS 6 p.m., $15. House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk, 400 W. Disney Way, Ste. 337, Anaheim (714) 778-2583. houseofblues.com/anaheim.

SUNDAY

ANGELINA'S SOUND PRESENTS BRUNCH & BEATS 11 a.m. Angelina's Pizzeria, 8573 Irvine Center Dr., Irvine (949) 536-5200

APOLLO BEBOP BOTTOMLESS BRUNCH 9 a.m., free. The Gypsy Den, 125 N. Broadway Ave., Santa Ana (714) 835-3840. gypsyden.com

RANDA SUNDAYS 8 p.m., free before 10:30 p.m. Saville Night Club, 140 Free Ave., Long Beach, (562) 243-3015. savillenightclub.com

EXPANDING OC NIP-HOP 8 p.m., free. Doll Hut, 197 S. Adams St., Anaheim (714) 533-1286.

FULLY FULLWOOD REGGAE SUNDAYS 3 p.m., $5. Dan the Beachcomber, 16278 Pacific Coast Hwy., Huntington Beach (562) 592-1321, danthebeachcomber.com

KJAZZ CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH CRUISE noon, $68.95. Horseblower Cruises and Events, 2431 W. Coast Hwy., Ste. 101, Newport Beach (888) 467-6256.

94.7 THE WAVE BRUNCH 11 a.m., $25. Spaghettini Rotisserie & Grill, 3005 Old Ranch Pkwy., Seal Beach, (562) 596-2799; spaghettini.com.

SUNDAY BLUES 4 p.m., free. Mulerkey's Grill & Irish Pub, 188 N. Marina Dr., Long Beach, (562) 598-9431

MONDAY

COUNTRY DANCIN' WITH DJ PATRICK 6:30 p.m., free. The Swallow's Inn, 31786 Camino Capistrano, San Juan Capistrano, (949) 493-3199. swallowsinn.com.

DJ TORDSBROS 10 p.m., free. Kitsch Bar, 891 Baker St., Ste. A10, Costa Mesa, (714) 546-8580. kitschbar.com

DOUG LACY ON THE PIANO 6 p.m., free. Ralph Brennan's Jazz Kitchen, 1590 S. Disneyland Dr., Anaheim (714) 776-5200, rbjazzkitchen.com.

TUESDAY

ALEX'S BAR KARAOKE 9 p.m., free. Alex's Bar, 2913 E. Anaheim St., Long Beach (562) 434-8282, alexsbar.com

OLD SCHOOL HIP-HOP/R&R NIGHT 7 p.m., free. Pie Society, 353 E. 17th St., Costa Mesa, (949) 313-6335; piesocietybar.com.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 29

COLLIE BUDDZ 9 p.m., $25. The Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana, (714) 957-0600. observatoryoc.com.

DEREK RORDEAUX BAND 9 p.m., free. Dogneal Mikes, 100 S. Main St., Santa Ana (714) 550-7754. orgnealmikes.com

ELLA MAI 8 p.m., $15. Constellation Room at the Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana (714) 957-0600, constellationroom.com

RITSCH OUT THE JAMS 9 p.m. free. Kitsch Bar, 891 Baker St., Ste. A10, Costa Mesa, (714) 546-8580. kitschbar.com

LIVE BAND KARAOKE 7 p.m., free. House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk, 400 W. Disney Way, Ste. 337, Anaheim (714) 778-2583. houseofblues.com/anaheim.

MODERN DISCO AMBASSADORS 10 p.m., $5. La Cave, 1695 Irvine Ave., Costa Mesa (949) 646-7944, lacaverestaurant.com.

THURSDAY, NOV. 30

BACH CATALOG 9 p.m., free. Kitsch Bar, 891 Baker St., Ste. A10, Costa Mesa, (714) 546-8580. kitschbar.com

DOUG LACY ON THE PIANO 6 p.m., free. Ralph Brennan's Jazz Kitchen, 1590 S. Disneyland Dr., Anaheim (714) 776-5200, rbjazzkitchen.com.

LIVE JAZZ AND R&B 7 p.m., free. The Durban Room at Mozambique, 1740 S. Coast Hwy., Laguna Beach, (949) 715-7777. mozambiqueoc.com.

LIVE MUSIC ON THE DECK WITH PAR AVION 6 p.m. FREE. Pacific City, 21022 Pacific Coast Hwy., Huntington Beach, gopacificcity.com

PENNYWISE *FULL CIRCLE* 20TH-ANNIVERSARY SHOW presented by KROQ 7 p.m., $25. House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk, 400 W. Disney Way, Ste. 337, Anaheim (714) 778-2583; houseofblues.com/anaheim.

TEEDRA MOSES 9 p.m., $18-$50. Gaslamp Restaurant & Bar, 6251 E. Pacific Coast Hwy., Long Beach (562) 596-4719; thegaslamprestaurant.com.

WOMEN WHO ROCK III 9 p.m., free. House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk, 400 W. Disney Way, Ste. 337, Anaheim, (714) 778-2583; houseofblues.com/anaheim.

UPCOMING

DECEMBER

ELI-MAC Dec. 2, 7 p.m., $15. The Parish at House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk.

MIYA FOLICK Dec. 4, 8 p.m., $12. Constellation Room at the Observatory.

RONE THUGS-N-HARMONY, MACR 10 & WC Dec. 22, 11 p.m., $25. The Observatory.

SCARFACE Dec. 23, 9 p.m. $20-$35. Gaslamp Restaurant & Bar.

ULTIMATE RAT PACK TRIBUTE CHRISTMAS SHOW Dec. 23, 9 p.m. $20. The Coach House

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Public Players

I'm a twentysomething straight woman. About a month ago, I had a really vivid dream in which I was at a party and engaging with a guy I had just met. We were seriously flirting. Then my fiance showed up—my real, flesh-and-blood, sleeping-next-to-me fiance whom we'll call G. In the dream, I proceeded to shower G with attention and PDA. I was all over him in a way we typically aren't in public. I was clearly doing it to get a reaction from the guy I'd just spent the last dream-hour seducing. It was as if it had been my plan all along. Last night, I had a similar dream. This time, the guy was an old high-school boyfriend, but otherwise, it was the same: flirty banter, followed by the use of G to reject and humiliate the other guy. I was really turned on by these dreams. In real life, whenever another woman has flirted with G, I get aroused—conscious of some feelings of jealousy but drawing pleasure from them. And when other men have flirted with me, I get similarly aroused for G. There is definitely a component in that arousal that wants to tease and mock these other men with what they can't have, even though the teasing is just in my head. I would NEVER use another person like I do in these dreams/fantasies because it's cruel. But could this become a healthy role-playing outlet for me and G? Are there ethical implications to hurting strangers (albeit imaginary ones) for sexual pleasure? From what little I know of degradation/humiliation kinks, it's important that the person being degraded is experiencing pleasure and satisfaction. Is it healthy to make someone's (again, an imaginary someone's) unwilling pain a part of our pleasure? If G is into it, this would be our first foray into fantasy/role-playing/whatever. But I worry that I might be poisoning the well by pursuing something so mean-spirited.

My Extra-Arousing Meanness

We watch imaginary people being harmed—much more grievously harmed—in movies and on television and read about imaginary people being harmed in novels. Think of poor Barb in *Stranger Things* or poor Theon Greyjoy in *Game of Thrones* or poor Christian in *Fifty Shades of Grey*. If it's okay for the Duffer brothers and HBO and E.L. James to do horrible things to these imaginary people to entertain us, MEAN, it's okay for you and your boyfriend (if he's game) to do much less horrible things to an imaginary third person to entertain yourselves.

But why limit this to fantasy? Why not fuck your fiance's brains out after flirting with and subsequently humiliating a living, breathing, willing third?

But first, MEAN, give some thought to what exactly turns you on about this, and then discuss it with your fiance. It turns you on to see your partner through another's eyes for obvious reasons—when someone else wants to fuck him, you see him with fresh eyes and want to fuck him that much more. As for the power-play aspects of your fantasy, does your turn-on evaporate if your victim is a willing participant? And how do you feel about threesomes? Threesomes don't have to involve intercourse or outercourse or any other sort of "course," of course. Bringing someone else in—someone who gets off on the idea of being humiliated—counts as a threesome, even if all your third "gets" to do is be ditched in a bar. You could even work up to letting your willing third watch and/or listen while your fiance gets to do what he will never get to do—fuck your amazing brains out—which would allow for the humiliation games to continue all night long.

SavageLove

» DAN SAVAGE

Once G is on board, MEAN, you can start with a little role-playing about this scenario. Then, once you've established that this is as exciting for G as it is for you, adversse for your willing third. The internet is for porn, first and foremost, but it's also pretty good at bringing like-minded kinksters together. As long as your third consents to the play and gets off on it, you aren't poisoning the well or doing harm. And if you're worried it won't be as much fun if your victim is a willing participant, MEAN, remember there will be witnesses, i.e., other people in the bar who won't know it was a setup, and in their eyes, you will be cruelly humiliating this poor schmuck.

Not into threesomes of any sort? Well, flirting is just flirting—it's not a binding contract—and there's no law that requires all flirtations to be strictly sincere and/or immediately actionable. A little casual flirtation with someone else before your fiance rolls into a bar is permissible—but you'll have to let the other person know right away that you have a fiancé and that this flirtation isn't going anywhere, and then you can't go *too* crazy with the PDA once your fiance arrives.

My husband and I have been together for 15 years, married for five. He is more sexually adventurous than I am, but I try to keep up. At his request, we have gone to a few sex clubs in our area to have "public sex." That's his main interest. He promised that it would be a one-time thing but insisted we keep going back. He told me that if I ever got uncomfortable, we didn't have to go back. I told him I did not want to go to any more sex clubs, and he found a loophole: sex booths at porn shops. If I have to do sex in public, booths are best because they aren't very popular and there is some privacy. This wasn't good enough for him. He wants an audience, he wants to see me with others, etc. I hate this. I hate how it makes me feel. I hate it. He says all the right things—he respects me, he knows a relationship is a two-way street, etc.—but he is constantly furious with me about this. He tells me I don't contribute anything to our relationship and that we don't have a true partnership—all because I don't want to have sex in public with him or with strangers. Right now, he's storming around the house in a rage about this, and I am tired of it. I react to his "public requests" with nausea and panic because I know he will be enraged for a week if we don't go. I have even suggested that he go outside the marriage, but he wants me to be a part of it. Everything else in our relationship is great. We have a home, a child and pets. I'm not sure if all that needs to be broken over this.

Denial Enrages Selfish Partner And I'm Reeling

I'm running out of column here, DESPAIR, so I'm going to have to be blunt: Your husband is a selfish, emotionally abusive, manipulative *asshole*, and you should leave him. You gave his kink a try, and not only was it not for you, but it also makes you fucking miserable. You gave him the okay to find other sex partners to explore this with...and that wasn't good enough for him. He has responded not with the gratitude you deserve—for the effort you made, for the permission you gave him—but with emotionally abusive behavior. And what's his goal? To make your life a living hell until you consent under duress? That wouldn't be genuine consent, DESPAIR, and therefore not consent at all. Being served with divorce papers may open his eyes. If so, perhaps your marriage can be saved. If not, go through with the divorce.

On the Lovecast *(savagelovecast.com): Look out, monogamy; here comes Esther Perel. Contact Dan via email at mail@savagelove.net, follow him on Twitter @fakedansavage, and visit ITMFA.org.*

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ROBERT FLORES

TOKE OF THE WEEK

» ROBERT FLORES

Papaya Indica Hybrid

Looking for a new strain of flower can be somewhat challenging, and while that's a good thing, the possibility of purchasing a dud also increases. You never know until you actually smoke the bud. New Generation in Santa Ana is a legit dispensary with a top-notch staff and plenty of variety. I perused its menu and knew the Papaya indica strain was the bud for me just by its looks: bright green with plenty of orange hairs sprouting out.

Papaya is a cross between Citral No. 13 and Ice No. 2 seeds generated by Nirvana Seed Shop in the Netherlands. Nirvana is at the cutting edge of seed development and only deals in top-shelf hybrids. This strain gets its name from the tropical aroma and flavor of the papaya fruit.

At $35 per eighth, it's a great deal; I've paid more for the same intense high. I can recommend Papaya for pain since it gets you so high you'll feel no pain. The taste was smooth, and I had a nice buzz after the first bowl. Roll a nice joint of Papaya, make yourself one of those fruity cocktails with an umbrella, and you're set! *Mahalo!*

LETTERS@OCWEEKLY.COM

Available at New Generation, 3700 W. Sagarstrom Ave., Santa Ana, (657) 900-8200.

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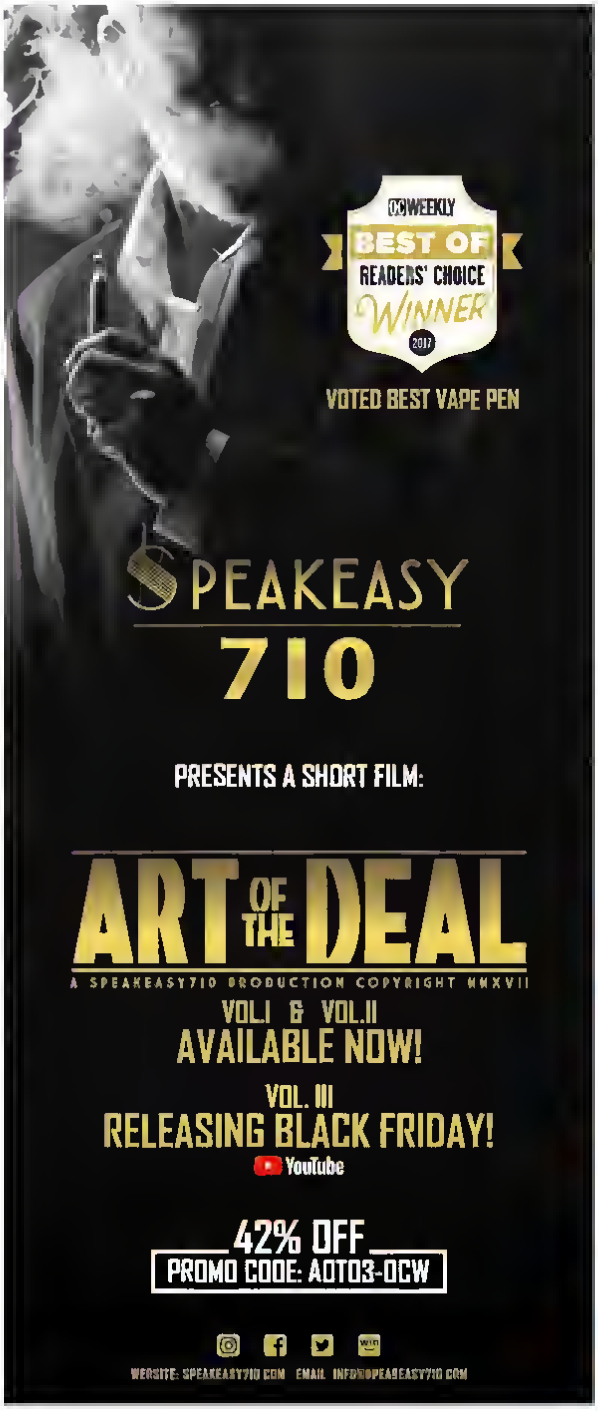

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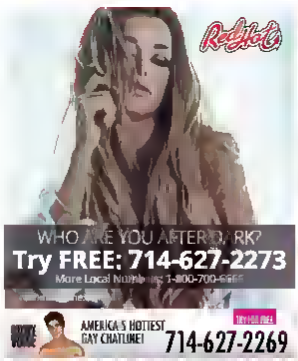
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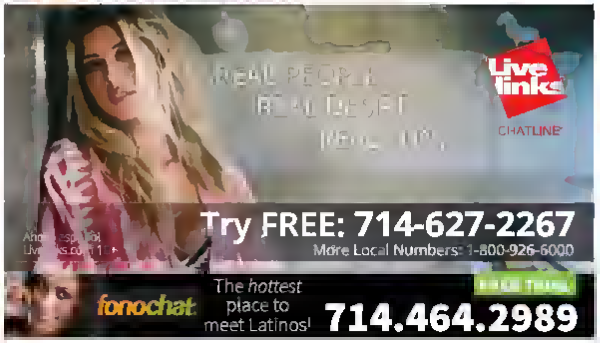
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Computer Programmer-2 yrs wk exp req'd. Send resumes to: Nodus Technologies, Inc. 2093 S State College Blvd. #250, Anaheim CA 92806 Attn: S Tsao

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Pastor f/t; Nonprofit Christian church. Conduct pastoral services. Req. Master of Divinity or Related. Resume: IRVINE JU CHURCH <\/a>, 9971 MUIRLANDS BVLD. IRVINE CA 92618

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Procurement Clerk: Prepare P/O & maintain purchasing files. Req'd: Any BA/BS. Mail resume: Global Engineering Corporation 6281 Beach Blvd #200 Buena Park, CA 90621

Financial Manager (Yorba Linda, CA) Direct / coordinate financial activities of workers in the office. Prepare operational / risk reports for management analysis. Evaluate data per training to costs to plan budgets. 40hrs/wk. Bachelor's in Business Administration or related & Min 2 yrs of experience as Financial Manager or related req'd. Resume to KPI Healthcare, Inc. Attn: Steven S Minn, 25965 Via Del Rio, Yorba Linda, CA 92887

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Employment

195 Position Wanted

Senior SAP Solution Developer sought by Applied Medical Resources Corporation, a medical device dvlpr & mfctr (design/dvlp/responsible for full life cycle implmtn of Web DynproA/BAP). Bach's deg in Comp Sci, Mgmt Info Systems or related IT field or related w/ 5 yrs exp. Job loc: Rancho Santa Margarita, CA. E-mail resume to SAPCAREER@appliedmedical.com.

Computer Systems Engineer (Tustin, CA) Design and develop operational support systems for computer systems. Bachelor's in Computer/Software Engineering related. Resume to: Woongjin Inc. 355 Centennial Way #200 Tustin, CA 92780

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Chiropractor Diagnose & ∓ treat musculoskeletal conditions of spine & amp; extremities, including manipulating spine & amp; other extremities. Need D.C. degree + valid CA Chiropractic license. Send resume to Naozumi Arai, O.C. 1535 Baker Street, Costa Mesa CA 92626

Acupuncturist: Apply by mail only to Pio Medical Center Inc. 320 N. Brookhurst St., #117, Anaheim CA 92801. attn. President.

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En la Suprema Corte de el Condado de Orange, estado de California numero de demanda 160008273 Kim, Christine Minawik, Demandante en contra de Bang Sang Hoon Demandado por orden de servicio de publicacion del 19 de Diciembre 2016 esta aqui notificado que el 26 de Septiembre 2016 Christine Minawik puso una demanda de divorcio. Esta usted requerido a presentarse con la Suprema Corte y contactar al abogado de la demandante, Gary J. Kim, con direccion en 13731 Wilshire Boulevard Suite 502, Los Angeles CA 90010 y responder en 30 dias desde que se publica la orden.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF ORANGE COUNTY, STATE OF CALIFORNIA FILE NO. 160008273 Kim, Christine Minawik, Plaintiff v. Bang, Sang Hoon Defendant. By order for service by publication date Dec 19, 2016 you are hereby notified that on Sep 26, 2016 Christine Minawik, filed lawsuit against you for Divorce (Nullity). You are required to file with the clerk of the Superior Court, and serve upon the plaintiff's attorney GARY J. KIM whose address is 3731 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 502, Los Angeles, CA 90010 an answer within sixty (60) days of the date of the order for publication.

Employment

195 Position Wanted

Senior SAP Solution Developer sought by Applied Medical Resources Corporation, a medical device dvlpr & mfctr (design/dvlp/responsible for full life cycle implmtn of Web DynproA/BAP). Bach's deg in Comp Sci, Mgmt Info Systems or related IT field or related w/ 5 yrs exp. Job loc: Rancho Santa Margarita, CA. E-mail resume to SAPCAREER@appliedmedical.com.

System Integration Analyst (Tustin, CA) Develop, create, and modify computer software for efficient system integration and operation. Master's in Info System/Engineering related. Resume to: Woongjin Inc. 355 Centennial Way #200 Tustin, CA 92780

PCB Design Engr (Job code: PDE-SR) Design & layout complex, multi-layer PCBs using Altium 16. Req's BS+2yrs exp. Mail resumes to Boundary Devices. Attn: HR, 21072 Bake Pkwy, Ste 100, Lake Forest, CA 92630. Must ref job title & code.

Sr SAP MM Consultant, MS deg in CIS, IT, MIS or related & 1 yr exp. Exp in Supply Chain Optimization. Skills: SAP MM, Tableau Reporting & Analysis, VBA, SQL, MS Visio, Six Sigma Methodology. Travel &/or relocthroughout the US req'd. Mail resume to Morris & Wilmer Partners, Inc. 201 Sandpointe Ave. Ste. 200 Santa Ana, CA, 92707

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'Tis The Season

To boycott Black Friday
BY MARY CARREON

Ahh, **Black Friday**—the capitalism-sponsored commencement of the American holiday season dedicated to marathon shopping, bargain hunting and trampling people to get into **Wal-Mart**. But it actually doesn't start on Friday anymore. It now starts the day before—on **Thanksgiving**—around 7 p.m., after most families have finished stuffing their pie-holes with turkey and mashed potatoes.

The twisted irony of encouraging competitive shopping just hours after celebrating a tradition (supposedly) rooted in being thankful is a **Jedi mind-trick** at its finest—as is Thanksgiving, for that matter. Remember: History books left out a few bullet points detailing *just* how dirty the colonists played the indigenous people. (I must admit, however, I love the fact I get a day off. So, there's that.)

Based on what we did to the **Native Americans**, I guess it's only natural for us Americans to want to beat the shit out of one another in order to ensure a **Hatchimal** appears under the Christmas tree. Acting like self-centered barbarians is truly the way of the USA—just ask our president!

Thankfully, the Black Friday craze has sparked a boycott movement. Shout out to **Jerry Stritzke**, the CEO of **REI**, for closing all 151 locations on the biggest shopping day of the year. Aside from giving the middle finger to capitalism, and thus, America, shutting down an entire business chain kind of debunks the theory that Black Friday *has* to be the biggest money-making day for retail businesses.

Rather than flock with the crowds of sheeple to **South Coast Plaza**, **Best Buy** or any other big-box outlet the masses flock to hours before doors even open, here are a few tips on how to avoid the soul-crushing chaos.

You can always drink yourself into oblivion, and **Hi-Time Wine Cellars** in Costa Mesa offers a pretty classy way to do so. It's hosting a **Ribera del Duero & Rueda Tempranillo** tasting on Friday. Although Napa's wine is considered some of the best juice in the world, it's also way overpriced—don't fall for the scam! **Spanish** (as well as **French** and **Italian**) wines are some of the BEST wines the Earth's *terroir* has to offer. And the Hi-Time staff are among the friendliest groups of people. There's also an extensive beer and liquor section with pretty much every type of booze your heart could ever desire. If avoiding the stress of Black Friday and the holidays ideally involves alcohol for you, this is the place to get lost (and plastered) in. Just be sure to catch a **Lyft** out of there—Newport Boulevard is the DUI death trap of Southern California.

TORIN SHARP

If you're aiming to make healthier choices, hiking on Black Friday is a sure way to make you feel alive—and tack on the good karma, too. **Red Rock Canyon** in Lake Forest offers some of the most breathtaking scenery in Orange County, with rock formations that resemble the intricate prehistoric landscapes of **Joshua Tree**, but there's far more greenery to observe here and no prickly yuccas or Joshuas. If your soul needs a refresher, but you don't have time to leave OC, this is one of the best local spots to recharge your spirit.

Laughing until you cry is another solid way to avoid the holiday drama. At the **Irvine Improv**, you can catch Fullerton's **Brad Williams**, who is often confused for **Wee Man** from *Jackass*. C'mon, people! That is so offensive. You can make it up to him by going all three nights he'll be in Irvine.

For a night of mystical magic—and wine, head to the **Anaheira Majestic Garden Hotel**. Illusionist **David Minkin** from **The Magic Castle** performs while the audience samples curated treats, tasty hors d'oeuvres, wine and desserts. And maybe—just maybe—if you drink enough wine, click your heels three times, and get sprinkled with a splash of Minkin's pixie dust, you'll be transported to an alternate dimension where Black Friday doesn't exist, **Donald Trump** is a brand of toilet paper and the world thrives off sustainable energy.

But if the need to shop on Black Friday feels as urgent as having to urinate, there are a few places where you can get your shopping fix *and* manage the stress of the deranged weekend. There are 17 legal dispensaries in Santa Ana that'll undoubtedly dole out the greenery for the holiday scenery. **Bud and Bloom**, **420 Central**, **Blüra OC**, **New Generation**, **MedMen**, and **Evergreen** are among the collectives that not only sell safe, quality cannabis products, but are also known for fantastic deals. Their Black Friday bargains will surely be praise-worthy—just be sure to bring your doctor's recommendation with you.

Because music and weed go together like **Orange Sunshine** and **Deadheads**, you should stop by the **Cypress Library Record Club** afterward. The fact that record clubs still exist is shocking; society is losing its ability to enjoy anything that doesn't involve scrolling, swiping or communicating with people via a screen. But here, you're asked to bring two songs (in any format) to share with the group, then everyone will discuss them. It's a music nerd's wet dream. Groups such as this are dying, but it's imperative to keep them alive so we don't lose the capacity to synthesize creativity and intelligence. If we do, the human race might as well call it quits, as we'll be depriving our souls of enrichment.

The world in which we live makes it *so* difficult to not spend money, but if there's any day to avoid mindless spending, it's the day after Thanksgiving. And **Cyber Monday**, too. Oh, God, don't get me started on Cyber Monday!

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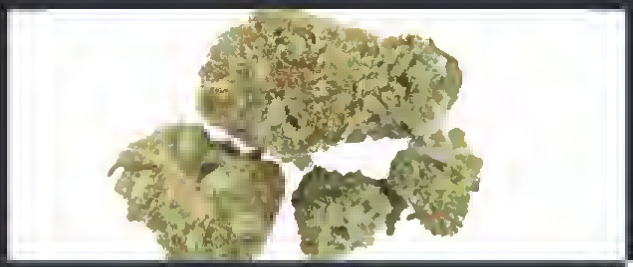

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